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THE CHRISTIAN'S

BIRTHDAY BOOK

AND

DAILY MONITOR

A

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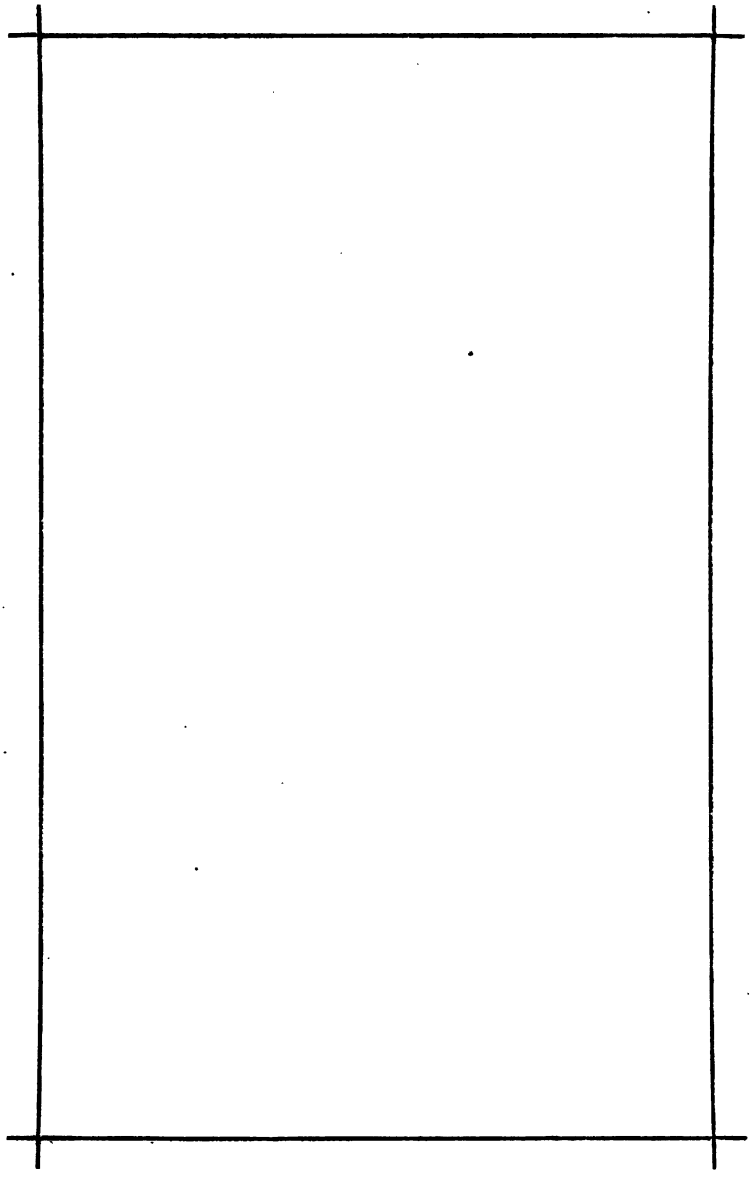

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THE CHRISTIAN'S

BIRTHDAY BOOK

AND

DAILY MONITOR

BY THE

REV. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D.

Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Fellow of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen: Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales, Associate of the Imperial Archæological Society of Russia, Member of the Historical Society of Quebec, Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Corresponding Member of the Historical and Genealogical Society of New England

LONDON

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

The Baroness Burdett Coutts,

WHOSE DISINTERESTED EFFORTS TO RELIEVE SUFFERING HUMANITY, AND MUNIFICENT SUPPORT OF EVERY UNDERTAKING CALCULATED TO PROMOTE THE PHYSICAL, MORAL, AND SPIRITUAL WELFARE OF HER FELLOW-CREATURES, ARE SO WIDELY KNOWN AND SO HIGHLY APPRECIATED,

THIS SMALL VOLUME IS,

WITH HER LADYSHIP'S PERMISSION,

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE EDITOR.

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"Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."—ECCLES. xii. 13.

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PREFACE.

THIS small volume is intended for several purposes. Opposite to each day presenting a marginal line for names, it is primarily adapted as a Birthday Book. But it is also suited for the boudoir and the sick-chamber; also as a pocket companion. On every page will be found counsels for young and old, rich and poor, wise and simple. Teachers of the past and present unite in expounding and enforcing those texts or maxims which constitute the essence of the Divine record. In lack of a longer service, parents might, not without benefit, read each morning two or more pages to their children. Even in the railway carriage and in the counting-room the book may be scanned profitably. Read day by day, pious sentiment will, under the Divine blessing, be surely awakened.

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The texts and verses young persons might be encouraged to commit to memory. Under each day a special doctrine or adage is set forth and illustrated. Yet one idea pervades the whole, which is, that the grand design of life is to glorify God, that thereby, through His grace, we may enjoy Him for ever.

GRAMPIAN LODGE,
FOREST HILL, S.E.,
December 1878.

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THE

CHRISTIAN'S BIRTHDAY BOOK.

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See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.—EPH. v. 15, 16.

Time's glory is to calm contending kings,
To unmask falsehood, and bring truth to light,
To stamp the seal of time on aged things,
To wake the morn, and sentinel the night.
—SHAKESPEARE.

The spirit walks of every day deceased,
And smiles an angel, or a fury frowns.
—YOUNG.

Oh! how many deeds of deathless virtue
The world had wanted, had the actor said,
"I will do this to-morrow!"
—EARL RUSSELL.

Do not look at life's long sorrow;
See how small each moment's pain;
God will help thee for to-morrow,
So each day begin again.
—ADELAIDE A. PROCTOR.

Here hath been dawning
Another blue day:
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away?
—CARLYLE.

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January 1.

O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.—Ps. xc. 14, 15.

NSTEAD of wasting our precious fleeting days in pursuing the phantoms of the world, which elude our grasp and will leave their possessors for ever poor, we should employ ourselves in seeking forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance in heaven. Let us earnestly pray that the Lord would so teach us to consider the shortness and uncertainty of life, and the proportion of it which is already past, that we may apply our hearts to this true wisdom.—Thomas Scott.

Every Christian, whatever he is doing, should be labouring for that which endures to everlasting life. His toil should not have self for its end, but God and Christ, and in them the good of suffering, sinful humanity.—Ker.

Shepherd of Thine Israel, lead us
Pilgrims through this desert land;
Thou who hast from bondage freed us,
Guard us by Thy mighty hand;
Daily feed us
Till we reach the heavenly strand.
—Josiah Conder.

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January 2.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.—MATT. x. 16.

MEEKNESS is love at school—love at the Saviour's feet. It is Christian lowlihood. It is the disciple learning to know himself—learning to fear, and distrust, and abhor himself.—DR J. HAMILTON.

Oh, trust to no saviour but Christ, nor to any evidence of a gracious state other than an entire abstinence from all sin, or at least godly sorrow for it and daily resistance to it.—DR GUTHRIE.

Jesus, who on the earth didst give
A bright example how to live,
May we observe with willing mind
The footprints Thou hast left behind!
—DR A. S. PATTERSON.

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January 3.

Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: He preserveth the souls of His saints.—Ps. xcvii. 10.

BLESSED are they who are glad to have time to spare for God, and who shake off all worldly hindrances.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Oh, let us not live as if our life here had no end to it; let us not plot and plan, dig and build, hoard and enjoy, as if there were no inheritance laid up for us in heaven.—BISHOP THOROLD.

Up, ye soldiers of the cross,
  True followers of the Lamb!
Counting earthly gain but loss,
  For love of Jesu's name.
—B. GOUGH.

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January 4.

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.—Rom. xii. 11.

BUSINESS is honourable. Moses was in his employment when the vision was manifested to him in the bush. David was in his employment when called to a kingdom. Elisha was at the plough when called to be a prophet.—Richard Cecil.

An idle man and a Christian are names which do not harmonise. Every Christian has enough to do to occupy *all* his time; and he whose life is spent in ease and doing nothing should doubt altogether his religion.—Barnes.

But when will slothful man arise?
How long shall sleep seal up his eyes?
Sloth more indulgence still demands,
Sloth shuts the eyes and folds the hands.
—*Scottish Paraphrase.*

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January 5.

The love of money is the root of all evil.
—1 TIM. vi. 10.

BOTH worlds frequently slip from the grasp in the miserable attempt to gain the false glitter of the present, and the bitter waters of disappointment sweep, like the Sea of Sodom, over the ruins of fortune and fame coveted at the cost of consistent principle.—KER.

By doing good with his money, a man, as it were, stamps the image of God upon it, and makes it pass current for the merchandise of heaven.—RUTLEDGE.

Leave behind earth's empty pleasure,
Fleeting hope, and changeful love;
Leave its soon corroding treasure:
There are better things above.
—FRANCES R. HAVERGAL.

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January 6.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.—JER. xvii. 9.

DECEITFUL above sward or sea, sky or enchanting desert, is the heart of man: nor do I know a more marked or melancholy proof of this than that afforded by our light treatment of such weighty matters as sin and judgment.—DR GUTHRIE.

All deception in the course of life is indeed nothing else but a lie reduced to practice, and falsehood passing from words to things.—SOUTH.

Work! and rend each galling fetter
Satan would impose on thee;
Rest not, either worse or better
Every day thy soul must be.
—JOHN ANDERSON, D.D.

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January 7.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have.—HEB. xiii. 5.

THE covetous man is a piece of grist in the machinery; he is out of gear with the universe; but the cheerful giver is marching to the music of the spheres.—C. H. SPURGEON.

The wealth of this world can never by its nature become truly our own. We may identify ourselves with it, and seem as if we were enlarged by our possessions, but we must at last shrink back into our proper selves, and feel that our possessions are utterly separate from our souls. —ROBERT HALL.

Oh, for the pearly gates of heaven!
Oh, for the golden floor!
Oh, for the sun of righteousness
That setteth never more!
—MRS ALEXANDER.

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January 8.

The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.—PROV. iv. 18.

LOVE to Jesus is the beauty of the believing soul; it is the elasticity of the willing steps, and the brightness of the glowing countenance.—JAMES HAMILTON, D.D.

When perfect instead of fallen, immortal instead of dying, pure with the purity of God, wise with His mind, penetrated with His love, vital with His grace, and inspired with His fervour, what kings and queens will the ransomed of the Lord hereafter become, sitting on their thrones of power in the kingdom of the Father.—BISHOP THOROLD.

This is not my place of resting,
Mine's a city yet to come;
Onwards to it I am hasting,
On to my eternal home.

—DR H. BONAR.

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January 9.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.—Ps. cxix. 1.

EARTHLY objects have no power to satisfy the mind; they cannot tranquillise the heart. But the enjoyments of eternity are of another nature; they satisfy the soul.—Robert Hall.

Christ is God's great ordinance. Nothing ever has been done, nor will be done to purpose, but so far as He is held forth with simplicity. All the lines must centre in Him.—Richard Cecil.

Saints, by the power of God, are kept
Till the salvation come;
We walk, by faith, as strangers here,
But Christ shall call us home.
—Watts.

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January 10.

The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.—Ps. cxlvii. 11.

IT is not enough that God is reconciled to us through the blood of the Cross—we must be also reconciled to God, and love His presence, and choose His way.—W. JAY.

The pleasures of the world are like the kiss of Judas, given but to betray; the pleasures of heaven make the soul light and beautiful, as when the face of Moses was transformed by the vision of God.—J. G. PILKINGTON.

How sweet it is, in early youth,
To tread the sacred paths of truth;
From Sin's deceitful snares to run,
And find a heaven on earth begun.
—W. H. BATHURST.

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January 11.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers; and grieve not the Holy Spirit of God.—EPH. iv. 29, 30.

AS it is said that ferocious animals are disarmed by the eye of man, and will dare no violence if he but steadily look at them, so it is when right looks upon wrong. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.—HORACE BUSHNELL, D.D.

"O Lord, set a watch before my mouth, keep the door of my lips," that I may never bring a reproach upon my profession by speaking proud, false, foolish, or censorious words. But, on the contrary, may I speak the words of wisdom, and out of a meek and pure heart adorn the doctrine which I profess, by a holy and quiet conversation.—BOGATZKY.

From evil keep thy tongue, thy lips
Make now from falsehood cease;
Depart from wickedness, do good,
Pursue and seek for peace.
—MARQUIS OF LORNE'S "PSALMS."

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January 12.

Ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water.—EXOD. xxiii. 25.

PHILIP HENRY was wont to say to his family, "My dear children, the grace of God will make a little go a great way."—W. JAY.

Every downward course into mere animal pleasure, every crooked walk, the idle hand, the senseless speech, the hesitating step—every one of these is a reversal of the order of our nature. It is a treason against that virtue which many of us prize above all others—*manliness*.—DEAN STANLEY.

O Thou who hast a temple-shrine
In every lowly contrite soul!
Kindle this heart and lip of mine
As with a living altar-coal.
—J. R. MACDUFF, D.D.

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January 13.

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely. —PROV. x. 9.

THE real man is one who always finds excuses for others, but never excuses himself.—H. W. BEECHER.

The good man quietly discharges duty and shuns ostentation; the vain man considers every good deed lost that is not publicly displayed. The one is intent upon realities, the other upon semblances; the one aims *to be* virtuous, the other to *appear* so.—ROBERT HALL.

Thanks for mercies past receive;
Pardon of our sins renew;
Teach us henceforth how to live
With eternity in view.
—JOHN NEWTON.

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January 14.

O Lord of Hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee. Ps. lxxxiv. 3, 5.

JUST as in the gift of manna to the Israelites, so much was given each day as was necessary, but not more; thus, in the bestowment of grace, we may expect so much to be dispensed as our immediate wants demand.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

Some men are more tried than others, but *none* who confide in the Divine promises shall fall utterly. In the physical world the law of gravitation is not more certain in its operation than is moral principle in regulating the affections.—DR C. ROGERS.

Israel's Shepherd! guide me, feed me,
Through my pilgrimage below,
And beside the waters lead me,
Where Thy flocks rejoicing go.
—JOHN BICKERSTETH.

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January 15.

Provide things honest in the sight of all men.—Rom. xii. 17.

THE mere possession of religious privileges will save no one's soul. —J. C. Ryle.

Avoid—and young men especially—avoid all base, servile, underhand, sneaking ways. Part with anything sooner than your integrity and conscious rectitude.—J. R. Macduff, D.D.

The breath from Thy dear mouth,
Thy Spirit sweet and free,
Is fragrant as the genial south;
Lord Jesus, breathe on me.
—Richard Wilton, M.A.

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January 16.

Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.—REV. xxii. 12.

THE weary fugitive that lay down on the bare ground at Bethel, and could find no pillow but a stone, seemed likely to have a very cheerless and comfortless night of it; yet never in all his life did he feel so near to heaven. —DR W. G. BLAIKIE.

Religion is a personal thing—an individual concern; for every one of us must give an account of himself to God, and every man bear his own burden.—ROBERT HALL.

To Thee, my Saviour and my King,
Glad homage let me give;
And stand prepared, like Thee, to die
With Thee that I may live.
—MRS BARBAULD.

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January 17.

Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.—PROV. xxii. 5.

THE highest angel, he who sees most of the glory and the providence of God, is also the humblest.—DEAN ALFORD.

Pride and revenge have hurried thousands to the grave, but piety represses these, and in their place teaches meekness and forgiveness.—ROBERT HALL.

Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee;
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me.
—MRS ADAMS.

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January 18.

My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.—2 COR. xii. 9.

GOD intends us to mourn when He afflicts us. Not to do so would show a proud and perverse spirit, unwilling to acknowledge His hand. —DEAN ALFORD.

Make, Lord, at all times, I beseech Thee, Thy grace sufficient for me; and that I may attain unto Thy strength, teach me to know aright my weakness.—LORD KINLOCH.

Jesus, cast a look on me,
Give me sweet simplicity;
Make me poor, and keep me low,
Seeking only Thee to know.
—JOHN BERRIDGE.

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January 19.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.—GAL. ii. 20.

E must have Christ on the cross, before ye can know Him on the throne.—C. H. SPURGEON.

To be chosen and loved by the Son of God, the Lord of all, the Beloved of the Father, the Throne of prophecy, the Worship of angels—to call Him not only our Lord and King, but our Friend and Brother—angels have not an honour like this, "such honour have all the saints."—ROBERT HALL.

Blest Saviour, introduced by Thee,
Have I my race begun;
And, crown'd with victory, at Thy feet,
I'll lay my honours down.
—DR DODDRIDGE.

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January 20.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.—ROM. viii. 1.

A CREED will not save you, but reliance upon the anointed Saviour is the way of salvation. —C. H. SPURGEON.

The Gospel doth not only represent the doctrine of Christ to be believed, but also the life of Christ to be followed. None shall be benefited by His death that are unwilling to lead His life.—DR WORTHINGTON.

I long to be like Jesus—
Meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus,
The Father's holy child.
—DR BONAR.

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January 21.

Turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.—1 SAM. xii. 20.

BE a Christian, throw yourself upon God's work, and get the ability you want in it. No Christian will ever be good for anything without Christian courage, or what is the same, Christian faith.—HORACE BUSHNELL, D.D.

Earnestness alone makes life eternity.—CARLYLE.

Our life may have a thousand cares,
Their power increasing day by day;
Yet give us, Lord, the spirit still
To love and pray.

--DR LANGFORD.

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January 22.

To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.—1 COR. viii. 6.

THE true Christian is the only happy man, because his conscience is at peace.—J. C. RYLE.

Blessed is the soul which heareth the Lord speaking within her, and receiveth from His mouth the word of consolation.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

He sendeth sun, He sendeth shower,
Alike they're needful for the flower;
And joys and tears alike are sent
To give the soul fit nourishment.
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father, Thy will, not mine, be done.
—MRS ADAMS.

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January 23.

Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.—ROM. x. 4.

THE Saviour is a Physician to heal, a Counsellor to plead, a King to govern, a Friend to sympathise, a Father to provide. He is a Foundation to sustain, a Root to enliven, a Fountain to refresh. He is the Shadow from the heat, the Bread of Life, the Morning Star.—W. JAY.

The universal command of the Gospel, that comprises all our duties, is to walk as Christ walked.—DR BATES.

Master, where abidest Thou?
Lamb of God, 'tis Thee we seek;
For the wants which press us now
Other aid is all too weak.
—MRS E. R. CHARLES.

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January 24.

To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.—ROM. ii. 7.

HOPE without patience would be life kindling into over-intensity, and burning itself out in fruitless longings. Patience without hope would be the decay of life's flame for want of nourishment, till it would sink to the quietude of death.—KER.

Do what thou dost, as if the earth were heaven. And that thy last day were the judgment day.—CANON KINGSLEY.

Creator, I would ever be
A trusting, loving child to Thee;
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father, Thy will, not mine, be done.
—MRS ADAMS.

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January 25.

The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.—ROM. x. 12.

MAN would be like God as the greatest of beings, but we are to be like Him as the best of beings. —W. JAY.

The holy, the pure-hearted, and the penitent have fellowship with angels, and walk with God; and God dwells in them with a growing nearness day by day.—MANNING.

"God of all comfort," be it ours
To find in Thee refreshment sweet;
And on our path may fragrant flowers
Blossom in beauty at our feet.
—DR A. S. PATTERSON.

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January 26.

Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.—MARK ix. 41.

THE liberal man will ever be rich, for God's providence is his estate, God's wisdom and power are his defence, God's love and favour are his reward, and God's Word is his security.—DR BARROW.

When is courtesy
In better practice, than when 'tis employed
In entertaining strangers?
—MIDDLETON.

Within my heart speak, Lord, speak on,
My heart alive to keep,
Till the night comes, and labour done,
In Thee I fall asleep.
—GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D.

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January 27.

Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.—MATT. vi. 25.

REAL wealth is not measured by the amount of one's property, but by the capacity to use it well.—DR W. G. BLAIKIE.

He lives long that lives well; and time misspent is not lived, but lost. Besides, God is better than His promise, if He takes from him a long lease, and gives him a freehold of a greater value.—FULLER.

Go forward, Christian soldier!
Nor dream of peaceful rest,
Till Satan's host is vanquished
And heaven is all possessed.
—REV. LAURENCE TUTTIETT.

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January 28.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.—GAL. v. 1.

PUT the religion of Jesus Christ into any arena, and it asks but liberty to use its weapons; and even when that is denied it, it triumphs still.—C. H. SPURGEON.

What are the distinctions of earth, what the honours of thrones, compared with the dignity of the humblest among those who are "born, not of blood, not of man, but born of God"—those who are called to be "heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ."—ROBERT HALL.

Awake, my soul! lift up thine eyes,
See where the foes against thee rise
In long array, a numerous host:
Awake, my soul, or thou art lost.
—MRS BARBAULD.

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January 29.

Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.—2 COR. vii. 1.

THERE is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent, and sincere earnestness.—CHARLES DICKENS.

Christian repentance is not legal but evangelical, it is not slavish, but filial; it is not degrading, but connected with the noblest feelings of the heart.—W. JAY.

Jesus, who, when Thy feet were here,
Didst cure the sick, the mourner cheer,
To us, Thy healthful grace impart—
To us, the balm that heals the heart.
—DR A. S. PATTERSON.

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January 30.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth. The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.—PROV. xi. 24, 25.

NO man can tell whether he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich or poor according to what he *is*, not according to what he has. —DR H. W. BEECHER.

That best portion of a good man's life—
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.
—WORDSWORTH.

O happy is the man who hears
Instruction's warning voice,
And who celestial Wisdom makes
His early, only choice.
—*Scottish Paraphrase.*

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January 31.

Man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.—DEUT. viii. 3.

EMPORAL mercies without Christ are unripe fruit; but when Christ shines upon them, they grow mellow and sweet.—C. H. SPURGEON.

The vanities of this life may or may not be won; but the great things of eternity—God, and glory, and heavenly happiness—are the certain inheritance of all that steadfastly set their faces thitherward.—ROBERT HALL.

Thy presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye;
My noonday walks He shall attend,
And all my midnight hours defend.
—ADDISON.

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February 1.

Be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.— 1 PET. v. 5.

E that is the most lovely professor is the most lowly professor. As incense smells the sweetest when it is beaten the smallest, so saints look fairest when they lie lowest.—SECKER.

See yon evening star how bright it shines, how pure and steady are its rays; but look, it is lower in the heavens than those stars which sparkle with a restless twinkling in the higher region of the skies. God keeps you low, that you may shine bright.—SALTER.

He that is down need fear no fall,
  He that is low no pride,
He that is humble ever shall
  Have God to be his guide.
—*Pilgrim's Progress.*

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February 2.

Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.—EPH. iv. 1-3.

THE divine and human are inseparably interwoven in the life and work of Christ. When He is giving proof of His Divinity, He applies to men for the relief of His hunger and thirst; and when He is accomplishing their salvation, He leans on them for the help of His sorrows, and has His fainting hands held up, as those of the great Prophet of Israel were by Aaron and Hur.—KER.

Trample not on any; there may be some work of grace there that thou knowest not of. The name of God may be written upon that soul thou treadest on, it may be a soul that Christ thought so much of as to give His precious blood for it; therefore, despise it not.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

How blest the sacred tie that binds
In union sweet, according minds;
How swift the heavenly course they run,
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes are one.
—MRS BARBAULD.

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February 3.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is.—HEB. x. 25.

RELIGION is social, and our graces are to be strengthened and invigorated by waiting together on the Lord. There is an obvious propriety that men should assemble together for the worship of the Most High, and no Christian can hope that his graces will grow, or that he can perform his duty to his Maker, without uniting thus with those who love the service of God.—BARNES.

If they were not to be excused who in the time of severe persecution forsook the assembling of themselves together, how shall we answer it to God, if in these favoured days we indolently absent ourselves from the assemblies of His saints, and neglect to honour Him by attendance on His ordinances?—THOMAS SCOTT.

Though private prayer be a brave design,
Yet public hath more promises, more love,
And love's a weight to hearts, to eyes a sign.
We all are but cold suitors; let us move
Where it is warmest. Leave thy six or seven;
Pray with the most, for where most pray, is heaven.

—GEORGE HERBERT.

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February 4.

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.—1 COR. x. 24.

IN this world it is not what we *take* up, but what we *give* up, that makes us rich.—H. W. BEECHER.

Reconcilement to God also reconciles all Christians to one another; and in this sense also the Gospel is fitly named the Word of Reconciliation.—LORD KINLOCH.

How strange that souls, whom Jesus feeds
With manna from above,
Should grieve Him by their evil deeds,
And sin against such love.
—W. H. BATHURST.

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February 5.

The redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.—ISA. li. 11.

THE love of God is that fountain from which all the rivers of mercy which have ever gladdened our race, all the rivers of grace in time, and of glory hereafter, take their rise.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Oh, what inheritance have they who wait for Christ; heaven is theirs, God is theirs, height and depth, life and death, all things are theirs.—ROBERT HALL.

Then why, my soul, dost thou complain?
Why drooping seek the dark recess?
Shake off the melancholy chain—
For God created all to bless.
—THOMAS CHATTERTON.

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February 6.

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.—Ps. xxxiv. 2.

THE Lord's followers are supposed to be mopish and melancholy, but they have a thousand sources of joy which others know not of.—W. JAY.

If God reign in your heart, you will be in His kingdom, and under His care, whether in the body, or absent from it. Should to-morrow introduce you to the unseen world, you need take no thought for it; for if safe now, you will be safe then.—DR HAMILTON.

Go forward, Christian soldier;
Fear not the secret foe;
Far more o'er thee are watching
Than human eyes can know.
—REV. LAURENCE TUTTIETT.

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February 7.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—MATT. xi. 28.

LL our libraries and studies are mere emptiness compared with our closets. . . . If study makes men of us, prayer will make saints of us.—C. H. SPURGEON.

There will be no Christian but what will have a Gethsemane, but every *praying* Christian will find that there is no Gethsemane without its Angel.—BINNEY.

Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh,
When the bird waketh, and the shadows flee:
Fairer than morning, lovelier than the daylight,
Dawns the sweet consciousness, I am with Thee.

—MRS H. B. STOWE.

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February 8.

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.—COL. iii. 13.

EVERY time your enemy fires a curse, you must fire a blessing; and so you are to bombard back and forth with this kind of artillery.—H. W. BEECHER, D.D.

When St Austin was asked what was the first grace of a Christian, he answered humility, what the second, humility; what the third, humility.—R. HALL.

Grant us peace, our Father,
While we worship Thee;
One in spirit, one in mind,
May Thy children be.
—REV. L. TUTTIETT.

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February 9.

The end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.—1 TIM. i. 5.

ET love permeate everything, and other virtues will grow out of it, as flowers spring from the soil.—C. H. SPURGEON.

The pure in heart make a conscience of their desires, contract their thoughts and passions within, abstain from coveting as well as injustice, from impure imaginations as well as actions; do not act a part before men, but aim to perfect holiness in the fear of God.—ROBERT HALL.

Little children, dwell in love,
New begotten from above;
Ye by this your birth may know,
That ye dwell in love below.

—DEAN ALFORD.

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February 10.

God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.—ECCLES. xii. 14.

BRIEF as is this earthly life, it is precious. It is the grain small as a mustard-seed, from which grows the tree of immortality.—DR J. HAMILTON.

A Christian should look upon himself as something sacred and devoted, so that what involves but an ordinary degree of criminality in others, in him partakes of the nature of sacrilege; what is a breach of trust in others, is in him the profanation of a temple.—ROBERT HALL.

My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,
For Thou, O Lord, art with me still;
Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.
—JOSEPH ADDISON.

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February 11.

Be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.—PHIL. i. 10.

PRAY that God would search your heart, and make you see if any wickedness lurk within it.—ROBERT HALL.

No light heart, no cheerful conscience, no true inward happiness, will you have in life, unless your soul is saved.—J. C. RYLE.

I bring my guilt to Jesus,
To wash my crimson stains
White in His blood most precious,
Till not a spot remains.
—DR H. BONAR.

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February 12.

Continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel.—COL. i. 23.

HE that forgets his friend, is ungrateful to him; but he that forgets his Saviour, is unmerciful to himself.—BUNYAN.

Those persons who temporise or attempt to find out a policy of going between, always blunder out of one ditch into another; if they do get to heaven, they go there slipshod, and with thorns piercing their feet all the way.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom—
Lead Thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home—
Lead Thou me on.
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene, one step's enough for me.

—J. H. NEWMAN, D.D.

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February 13.

Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you.—JOHN xii. 35.

GOOD mind is a kingdom in itself, it is true; but there is no mind truly good but that wherein Christ dwells.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

The fathomless ocean of grace itself is circumscribed by a moral shore. . . . Human responsibility is left untouched. Enough is done for every man to render his salvation possible, and disobedience inexcusable.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

Come, labour on;
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,
While all around him waves the golden grain,
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work to-day!"

—H. L. L.

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February 14.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.—MATT. xi. 29, 30.

GOD denies a Christian nothing, but with a design to give him something better.—RICHARD CECIL.

When you feel a fixed hatred of sin, an intense thirst after holiness and perfection, and a delight in the Word and ways of God; when you are habitually disposed to dwell on the thoughts of Christ and heaven, when the Saviour appears unspeakably precious, as the pearl of great price, and you are habitually ready to part with everything for His sake, you may be certain that you are born of God.—ROBERT HALL.

Be Thou to me my Lord, my Guide,
My Friend, yea, everything beside;
But first, last, best, whate'er betide,
Be Thou to me my Saviour.
—DORA GREENWELL.

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February 15.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.—ROM. xii. 1.

IF we make religion our business, God will make it our blessedness. —J. ADAM.

There is no making money in heaven—there is no promotion—there is no gossip—there is no idleness—there is no controversy—there is no detraction in heaven. . . . Nothing except goodness gets into heaven.—DEAN STANLEY.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
—SIR J. BOWRING.

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February 16.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.—Ps. xliii. 5.

WE mourn at Marah, but we sing at Elim. . . . Clouds are above us, but the stars smile on. . . . Winters bluster and freeze, but summer comes anon. . . . We are cast down, but we are not destroyed.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Adversity is the test of love. It is war that tries the courage of the soldier, the hill that tries the mettle of the racer, the tempest that proves the timbers of the ship; it is adversity that tests the sincerity and the enthusiasm of love.—POWER.

Rest in the Lord, from harps above
The music seems to thrill;
Rest in His everlasting love,
Rest, and be still.

—E. H. BICKERSTETH.

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February 17.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.—PHIL. iv. 13.

IF Christ's salvation is to be enjoyed, the will of the individual must be turned to Him, and an earnest personal application must be made for His blessings.—DR W. G. BLAIKIE.

You have a warrant to put on the righteousness of Christ as a robe and as a diadem, and to go to the throne of grace with the petition of, Look upon me in the face of Him who hath fulfilled all righteousness. —DR CHALMERS.

How happy is he born and taught,
That serveth not another's will;
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill.
—SIR HENRY WOTTON.

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February 18.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.—ECCLES. ix. 10.

AS long as human means can avail, it is a man's duty, trusting to Divine help, to employ them. To sit and wait where effort can avail is to insult God's will.—J. KER.

There is not a creature, from England's king
To the peasant that delves the soil,
That knows half the pleasure the seasons bring,
If he have not his share of toil.
—BARRY CORNWALL.

Come, labour on!
The toil is pleasant, the reward is sure:
Blessed are those who to the end endure!
How full their joy, how deep their rest will be,
O Lord, with Thee!
—H. L. L.

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February 19.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—TITUS ii. 11, 12.

O do evil that good may come is false morality and wicked policy. . . . Though He dash my reputation into shivers, and cast my usefulness to the four winds, yet, if duty calleth me, I must not hesitate a single second, for in that hesitation I shall be disobedient to my God. —C. H. SPURGEON.

Our eternal state will be no more than the carrying out of what we are now.—MANNING.

God is love; His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss He wakes, and woe He lightens;
God is wisdom, God is love.
—SIR J. BOWRING.

. . .

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February 20.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.—1 Cor. ii. 9.

WHEN Christ died, man was redeemed; and when Christ rose, man was justified; and when Christ went unto heaven, man was crowned. —Bishop Thorold.

It would be a poor heaven which such beings as ourselves could comprehend or anticipate. Give me the majestic cloud, the oracular veil, the mighty shadows which recede as we advance, filling the mind with amazement, but forbidding us to approach and examine what they are. I wish, when I have climbed to the highest pinnacle to which thought can soar, to be compelled to confess that I have not yet reached the base of the everlasting hills.—H. Melvill.

Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet,
Thy blessed face to see;
For if Thy work on earth be sweet,
What will Thy glory be?
—Richard Baxter.

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February 21.

Be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.—PHIL. ii. 15.

IF we wisely observe our own life, and that of our Christian friends, we may frequently see that trials and death have not only their forecast shadows, but their foreglancing illuminations of soul and resting-places in providence, which are sent as a support against the day of battle and of war.—J. KER.

Destitute of the Spirit of Christ, our religion will be a form of godliness without the power, practice without principle, duty without delight, a task, a weariness, vanity.—W. JAY.

Forbid it, Lord, that we should stray
Far distant from Thy holy way;
Or so deceived and thoughtless be,
As to love pleasure more than Thee.
—W. H. BATHURST.

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February 22.

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. —2 TIM. i. 12.

DEATH to the Christian is but the time of greatest triumph, because the time of nearest home.—W. M. PUNSHON, D.D.

If you will reap your harvest here, you cannot reap it hereafter; if you are determined to have your portion in this world, you must be content to pass into an eternity of infinite loss and destitution. —ROBERT HALL.

There is a blessed home
Beyond this land of woe,
Where trials never come
Nor tears of sorrow flow.
—SIR H. W. BAKER, BART.

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February 23.

Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.—EPH. v. 2.

LOVE is the diamond amongst the jewels of the believer's breast-plate. The other graces shine like the precious stones of nature with their own peculiar lustre and various hues; but the diamond is white. Now in white all the colours are united, so in love is centred every other grace and virtue; "love is the fulfilling of the law."—ROWLAND HILL.

As the spokes of a carriage wheel approach their centre, they approach each other; so also when men are brought to Jesus Christ, the centre of life and hope, they are drawn towards each other in brotherly relationship.—J. F. SERJEANT.

Oh, teach us, Lord, while here we live
As pilgrims bound for heaven,
Our brother's trespass to forgive
As we would be forgiven.

—H. A. S. ATWOOD.

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February 24.

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.—Ps. cxviii. 8.

THE love of God will not grow in the shade of any worldly affection.—MANNING.

Are any reluctant to be entirely in the hands of God? Are they afraid to trust Him to dispose of soul and body for time and eternity. Let them surrender their mercies, then, and go out naked from that government which feeds, protects, and comforts them.—LYMAN BEECHER.

Soldier of Christ, if thou wouldst be
Worthy that epithet, stand free
From time's encumb'ring things;
Be earth's enthralments fear'd, abhorr'd,
Knowing thy Leader is the Lord,
Thy Chief the King of kings.
—BERNARD BARTON.

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February 25.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy.—Ps. xxxiii. 18.

THE Sovereign of the universe wishes to be our Friend and Father, to satisfy the thirst of the soul, which longs to be pressed to an infinite heart—which cannot feel it up among all the throbbing stars, and finds it only when He comes down through them to speak the words—"I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. And I will be his God, and he shall be my son."—J. KER.

"Hast thou hope?" they asked of John Knox when he lay dying. He spoke nothing, but raised his finger and pointed upwards, and so died.—CARLYLE.

One heaven-born hope will the Christian uphold
Before the tribunal of God,
A hope which His Spirit alone can unfold,
A claim in the deed of redemption enrolled,
And sealed by the Saviour's blood.

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February 26.

The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.—ROM. xiv. 17.

O fully understand Christianity, we must be Christians.—RICHARD CECIL.

The kingdom of heaven is large enough when you get into it, but the gate is so low that you cannot come in save on your knees.—TALMAGE.

Come, says Jesu's sacred voice,
Come and make my paths your choice;
I will guide you to your home;
Weary pilgrim, hither come!
—MRS BARBAULD.

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February 27.

Follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.—3 JOHN 11.

HEAVEN will be inherited by every man who has heaven in his soul. The kingdom of God is within you.—H. W. BEECHER.

Little reliance can be placed upon kind hearts, quick sensibilities, and devotional feelings, if there is no religious principle to control, direct, and strengthen them.—SOUTHEY.

When nature fails, and day and night
Divide Thy works no more,
My ever-grateful heart, O Lord,
Thy mercy shall adore.

—JOSEPH ADDISON.

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February 28.

Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. —1 SAM. ii. 30.

HARDENED heart may prove the precursor of eternal ruin.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

It makes a difference now and ever, believe me, whether you serve Him who has on His vesture and thigh written, "King of Kings," and whose service is perfect freedom, or him on whose vesture and thigh the name is written, "Slave of Slaves," and whose service is perfect slavery.—RUSKIN.

Jesus, who, by Thy Father's call,
Art now exalted Lord of all,
May we Thy kingly sceptre own,
And bow before Thy sacred throne.
—REV. ALEX. S. PATTERSON, D.D.

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February 29.

Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these.—JER. vii. 4.

CHRISTIANITY has no ceremonial. It has forms, for forms are essential to order; but it disdains the folly of attempting to reinforce the religion of the heart by the antics of the mind.—DR CROLY.

When the mind halts in the symbol, instead of rising from it to the thing signified; when the man runs up and down the ladder, instead of reaching the eminence which commands the glorious prospect—he loses the joy inseparable from intercourse with the blissful reality.—PEARSON.

Sins against a holy God,
Sins against His righteous laws,
Sins against His love, His blood,
Sins against His name and cause;
Sins immense, as is the sea:
Hide me, O Gethsemane.

—JOSEPH HART.

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March 1.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. —Ex. xx. 8.

THERE is but a step between the never hearing a Sabbath bell, or never entering a church, or never joining in public worship, and the being confirmed in irreligion.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

The Sabbath is God's special present to the working man, and one of its chief objects is to prolong his life, and preserve efficient his working tone. It replenishes the spirit, the elasticity and vigour which the last six days have drained away, and supplies the force which is to fill the six days succeeding; and in economy of existence it answers the same purpose as in the economy of income is answered by a savings bank. . . . The savings bank of human existence is the weekly Sabbath.—*North British Review.*

How sweet is the Sabbath, the dear day of rest,
'Tis the day of all days, when the heart may be blest;
When the labour is o'er, and our household is seen
So holy and happy, so neat and so clean.
O sweet Sabbath day! the dear Sabbath day!
May I love it, and prize it, till life wears away. —PAXTON HOOD.

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March 2.

If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.—MATT. vi. 14.

WHAT a chain of evils does that man prepare for himself who is a slave to anger! He is the murderer of his own soul, yea, to the letter he is so, for he lives in a continual torment. He is devoured by an inward fire, and his body partakes of his sufferings. Terror reigns around him.—ST EPHRAIM.

Generous and magnanimous minds are readiest to forgive; and it is a weakness and impotency of mind to be unable to forgive.—LORD BACON.

Speak gently! it is better far
To rule by love than fear;
Speak gently! let no harsh words mar
The good we might do here!

—LANGFORD.

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March 3.

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.—2 CHRON. xvi. 9.

GOD is everywhere, the God who framed mankind to be one mighty family, Himself our Father, and the world our home.—COLERIDGE.

No labourer knows but that at any given moment the master's eye may be upon him. So it is with us. Our great Master commands a view, not only of our outward actions, but of the very thoughts of our hearts. And not only so, we know that our Master is constantly watching us, not to blame merely, but to prompt, to help, to encourage us. What an incentive to diligence!—J. H. VINCENT.

O God, whose thunder shakes the sky,
Whose eye this atom globe surveys,
To Thee, my only rock, I fly—
Thy mercy in Thy justice praise.
—THOMAS CHATTERTON.

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March 4.

A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.—JOHN iii. 27.

WHAT can we wish for in a heritage that is not to be found in God? Would we have large possessions? He is immensity. Would we have a sure estate? He is immutability. Would we have a term of long continuance? He is eternity itself.—ARROWSMITH.

How inconceivable an honour, how invaluable a benefit is it, that the incomprehensibly great and glorious Majesty of heaven doth vouchsafe us the liberty to approach so near unto Him, to converse so freely with Him, to demand and derive from His hand the supply of all our needs, and satisfaction of all our reasonable desires!—ISAAC BARROW.

Father and Friend! Thy light, Thy love,
Beaming through all Thy works we see;
Thy glory gilds the heavens above,
And all the earth is full of Thee.
—SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D.

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March 5.

Do ye now believe?—JOHN xvi. 31.

ET us remember our own weakness, and instead of depending on the grace that is in us, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. —W. JAY.

It is a characteristic feature of the Gospel scheme of redemption, that Christ, by His atoning death, has obtained for His own not only the boon of pardon and eternal bliss, but all lesser benefits; so that not only the great spiritual results appropriate to the redeemed, but even the common mercies of their daily lot, the most ordinary incidents of earthly comfort and enjoyment, are essentially part of the purchase of the blood shed on the cross.—LORD KINLOCH.

O Saviour, may we never rest,
Till Thou art formed within,
Till Thou hast calmed our troubled breast,
And crushed the power of sin.
—W. H. BATHURST.

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March 6.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.—Ps. xxv. 10.

YMPATHY with Christ is the subtle force through which the Holy Spirit moves the world.—Dr W. G. Blaikie.

The grace of the Gospel not only redeems the soul from death, and quickens it to newness of life, but it brings it into a very near relationship with God, and fits it for a full participation of the eternal glory and blessedness which God has in store for those who fear Him.—Bogatsky.

With prophets, seers, and martyrs,
We lift our voices high,
To praise the King of glory,
And Jesus magnify.
—Benjamin Gough.

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March 7.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.—JAMES iii. 13.

IF anger is not restrained, it is frequently more hurtful to us than the injury that provokes it. —SENECA.

There should never be any example of religion dissevered from good breeding, nor should the interests of religion be ever sought to be promoted in a way at variance with that which good breeding points out and inculcates.—LORD KINLOCH.

Come, Holy Dove,
Descend on silent pinion,
Brood o'er my sinful soul with patient love,
Till all my being owns Thy mild dominion.
—R. WILTON.

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March 8.

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man.—PROV. xxi. 17.

PLEASURE is but like a wooden frame set under an arch till it be strong enough of its own weight to stand alone; so when by any means the devil hath a man sure, he takes no longer care to cozen him with pleasures, but is content that he should begin an early hell, and be tormented before the time.—JEREMY TAYLOR.

The pleasures of the world are like the kiss of Judas, given but to betray; the pleasures of heaven make the soul bright and beautiful as when the face of Moses was transformed by the vision of God.—J. G. PILKINGTON.

Pleasures are like poppies spread;
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed;
Or like the snowfall in the river,
A moment white—then melts for ever.
—BURNS.

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March 9.

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.—ROM. xii. 18.

ALAS, alas!
Why, all the souls that were, were forfeit once;
And He that might the vantage but have took,
Found out the remedy. How would you be,
If He which is the top of judgment should
But judge you as you are? Oh, think on that;
And mercy then will breathe within your lips,
Like man new made.

—SHAKESPEARE.

He who walks in godly simplicity and humility, accounting his own infirmities always the greatest, will best be preserved from being puffed up and sifted by the enemy of souls.—BOGATSKY.

Calm me, my God, and keep me calm
While these hot breezes blow;
Be like the night-dew's cooling balm
Upon earth's fevered brow.

—DR H. BONAR.

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March 10.

He preserveth the souls of His saints; He delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. —Ps. xcvii. 10.

FFLICTION is the only gift for which we are not commanded to pray; but a true and instructed Christian will know that he ought to pray for the sanctified use of it, when sent.—RICHARD CECIL.

Let all mine enemies exert their utmost power, I will not be afraid. Afflictions, pains, temptations, may await me, waves and storms may go over my head, Satan may sift me as wheat, the waters of death may prove bitter to my taste, yet I will not be discouraged.—BOGATSKY.

Then let us with a filial heart
Come boldly to the throne
Of grace supreme, to tell our griefs,
And all our wants make known.
—HUGH BLAIR, D.D.

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March 11.

Spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—JOHN viii. 12.

THERE are like times of darkness in which the servant of the Lord can see no light, but must be cast on the bare arm of God for strength, and on the heart of God for peace.—DR N. MACLEOD.

When Alexander the Great visited the Greek philosopher Diogenes, he asked him if there was anything that he could give him. He got this short answer, "I want nothing, but that you should stand from between me and the sun." One thing there is which should never satisfy and content us, and that is anything that stands between our souls and Christ.—RYLE.

Walk in the light! and thou shalt be
A path, though thorny, bright;
For God, by grace, shall dwell in thee,
And God himself is light.

—BERNARD BARTON.

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March 12.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.—ISA. xliii. 2.

N the dispensations of the Lord's providence it often happens that the afflictions of His people become the most grievous when the day of their deliverance draws nigh.—DR KITTO.

Moses cast into the waters of Marah the wood which God had shown him. Let us cast into every stream of bitterness the peace-speaking cross of Jesus.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

O heare Thou my afflicted cry;
Extend Thy pity, and reply.
When thus the Lord,
In sweet accord,
"Seeke thou my face with searching eye."
Directed by Thy grace,
Lord, I will seeke Thy face.
—GEORGE SANDYS.

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March 13.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.—MATT. v. 5.

IF ever we are to labour truly for the highest good of our fellow-creatures, we must learn to take reverent and loving views of them.—KER.

If we were truly humble, and looked upon ourselves as most miserable sinners, we should willingly submit to all adversities, and patiently bear the burdens and infirmities of others, considering that God has borne with us a great deal more.—BOGATSKY.

Jesus, who teachest, wise and true,
What man should think and man should do,
Teach us for sacred truth to yearn,
And grant that we may meekly learn.
—ALEX. S. PATTERSON, D.D.

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Ninth 14.

Now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.—ISA. lxiv. 8.

O THOU great power! in whom I move
For whom I live, to whom I die;
Behold me through Thy beams of love,
While on this couch of tears I lie,
And cleanse my sordid soul within,
By Thy Christ's blood, the bath of sin.
—WOTTON.

What another being is life when we have found out our Father; and if we work, it is beneath His eye; and if we play, it is in the light and encouragement of His smile. Earth's sunshine is heaven's radiance, and the stars of night as if the beginnings of the beatific vision—so soft, so sweet, so gentle, so reposeful, so almost infinite have all things become, because we have found our Father in our God.—F. W. FABER.

Praise to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days;
Bounteous source of every joy,
Let Thy praise our tongues employ.
—MRS BARBAULD.

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March 15.

The Son of man is come to save that which was lost.—MATT. xviii. 11.

THERE is still a Tree of Life. Instead of abandoning our guilty race to self-entailed destruction, in His unspeakable mercy God has interposed, and in the mission and atonement of His own dear Son, has provided a salvation for sinners of mankind.—DR J. HAMILTON.

Only resolve to win eternal life, and He will accept your resolution as a pure offering. . . . Only be true to yourselves, and all help and all succour shall be given you. Twelve legions of angels shall wrestle for you, rather than that one faithful spirit perish from the way of life.—MANNING.

When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.
—ADDISON.

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March 16.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.—ACTS XX. 35.

BENEFICENT person is like a fountain watering the earth, and spreading fertility; it is, therefore, more delightful and more honourable to give than to receive.—EPICURUS.

The trees teach us. Their roots penetrate the soil, and drink in just that nourishment which they need. That nourishment is elaborated into sap, which rises into root and branch, and sustains the vigour of the tree. But it is not content with receiving, it gives back of that which it has received, in fruits and flowers. Yes, it is a source of greater happiness, if we would but try it, to bestow on others than to grasp for ourselves. He that so lives will find every pulse of his being refreshed, and his life will rise up, fragrant as the odour of flowers, to bless his fellow-men.—J. G. PILKINGTON.

Fear! lest pleasure should entice thee
To forget the holy prize;
Fear! lest riches should advise thee
Heavenly treasures to despise.
—JOHN ANDERSON, D.D.

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March 17.

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely. —PROV. x. 9.

AN established, experienced, hopeful Christian is, in the world, like an iceberg in a swelling sea. The cause of steadiness is its depth. Its bulk is bedded in calm water beneath the tumult that rages on the surface. Behold the condition and attitude of Christians! They float in the same sea of life with other men, and bear the same buffetings, but they are not driven hither and thither, the sport of wind and waters. . . . The chief part of their being lies deep beyond the reach of these superficial connections.—DR ARNOT.

If we do not leave the ship, . . . we are safe at sea, safer in the storm, which God sends us, than in a calm when we are befriended by the world.—JEREMY TAYLOR.

Come! holy, holy, holy Lord,
The Father, Son, and Spirit come!
Be mindful of Thy changeless word,
And make the faithful soul Thy home.
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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March 18.

God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.—EPH. ii. 4, 5.

To Thee, O Jesu! I direct mine eyes,
To Thee my hands! to Thee my humble knees,
To Thee my heart shall offer sacrifice;
To Thee my thoughts, who my thoughts only sees;
To Thee myself—myself and all, I give;
To Thee I die—to Thee I only live.
—WOTTON.

The wife may have many debts, but no sooner is she married than her debts cease to be hers, and become her husband's at once. It is even so with the sinner and Christ. Christ marrieth the sinner, and putteth forth His hand, and taketh the Church to be His. She is in debt to God's justice unmeasurably; she owes to God's vengeance an intolerable weight of wrath and punishment. Christ says, Thou art my wife, I have chosen thee, and I will pay thy debts.—SPURGEON.

'Tis from the mercy of our God
That all our hopes begin,
'Tis by the water and the blood
Our souls are washed from sin.
—WATTS.

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March 19.

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.—ISA. lv. 3.

WHATEVER below God is the object of our love will at some time or other be the matter of our sorrow.—RICHARD CECIL.

The Sun of Righteousness enlightens our consciences. It enlightens our understandings. It enlightens us through the Bible. It enlightens us through the example of good men. It enlightens our life. It enlightens the valley of the shadow of death, and, above all, enlightens the dark world which lies beyond death—the world of the grave.—DEAN STANLEY.

Cast, O Lord, Thy mantle o'er us,
Place our feet upon the rock;
By Thy guiding star before us,
Gently lead us like a flock.
—DR C. ROGERS.

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March 20.

Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. —1 COR. vi. 19, 20.

CHRIST who died yet lives to intercede. The fire is ever burning upon the altar. The Spirit of God is ever present to convince, to satisfy, and to save.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

Christ died that salvation might be possible. He rose that it might be actual. What His cross procured His resurrection confirms.—BISHOP THOROLD.

God of my life, whose guardian care
Has sheltered me in all my ways,
Nor ceases yet my life to spare,
I give Thee thanks and praise.
—ALEX. S. PATTERSON, D.D.

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March 21.

A man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place; as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.—ISA. XXXII. 2.

IT is an unspeakably precious truth that the sacrifice of Jesus once offered on Calvary is at all times of equal avail.—BISHOP BICKERSTETH.

He is the centre of human attraction, the fountain of perfect morality, the character that, in itself complete, meets all possible requirements of the human conscience, the Friend who attracts the secret sympathies of rich and poor, young and old—the Saviour.—BISHOP THOROLD.

Pain nor death from Thee shall move me;
Death, through Christ, shall be my friend:
That subdued, my God, I'll love Thee
With a love that knows no end.
—REV. THOMAS HOLME.

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March 22.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.—MATT. v. 8.

THE pure in heart are blessed already, not only comparatively, that they are in a better way of blessedness than others are, but actually, in a present possession of it; for this world and the next world are not to the pure in heart two houses, but two rooms, a gallery to pass through, and a lodging to rest in, in the same house, which are both under one roof—Christ Jesus.—DR DONNE.

Now our spiritual light is blinded by reason of sin. . . . But as the heart becomes purified, the veil will be taken away, we shall have a fuller and fuller vision of the things of heaven.—J. G. PILKINGTON.

Oh! who are these, too long apart,
When once they've found each other's heart,
Would never from the other part?
A sinner and his Saviour.
—DORA GREENWELL.

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March 23.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?—Isa. lviii. 6.

TEMPERANCE consists in guarding against such a use of meats and drinks as indisposes the body for the service of the soul, or robs me of my time.—Dr Watts.

The true Christian will ever be striving to restrain and to watch his selfish desires and appetites. . . . No severity will be too great for him to practise, only they may be curbed. Old habits of sin may cling to him close as the robe of Nessus, but he will tear them away, even though in doing it he must rend his flesh.—J. G. Pilkington.

Each tear regretful of the past,
Each longing o'er the future cast,
Each brave resolve, each spoken vow,—
Jesus, our Lord, accept them now.
—W. M. Punshon.

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March 24.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.—PHIL. iv. 7.

IT is the spirituality of religion that befriends enjoyment.—W. JAY.

O God, who in Thy wondrous grace beseechest sinners to be reconciled unto Thee, be pleased so to draw my heart to a ready compliance with the purpose of Thy love, that I reject not Thy gracious message; but, ever trusting in Thy sure word, may attain unto Thy perfect righteousness, through Christ Jesus, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.—LORD KINLOCH.

O Thou who lovest to forgive,
Ours be the gift of pardoning grace,
That in Thy favour we may live,
And feel the sunshine of Thy face.
—A. S. PATTERSON, D.D.

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March 25.

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few.—ECCLES. v. 2.

TELL me not what a man is in a storm, but in the calm. Not how he behaves himself in sickness, but in health. A Balaam may pray, Let me die the death of the righteous.—W. JAY.

How we overflow with the prattle of devotional or ecclesiastical gossip! We have a criticism for everybody's conduct in everything. We could teach them better; we could show them the right way. I wonder what preparation our secret intercession bears to our open criticism. . . . The eye that is quick to see a fault, and the ear that loves to listen to criticism, and the tongue that brags—these will be the signs of a praying soul—when the rainbow comes to be the emblem of despair, and not before.—F. W. FABER.

The man, in life wherever placed,
  Hath happiness in store,
Who walks not in the wicked's way,
  Nor learns their guilty lore.

—BURNS.

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March 26.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.—TITUS iii. 5.

OU may possess a superior mind, capable of every exertion, and rare and shining talents; if you err with regard to your eternal salvation, you are a child.—MASSILLON.

Dr Chalmers speaks of the expulsive power of a new affection. When the new love for Christ springs up in the soul, it drives out more and more all earthly loves. Like the sun in the centre of our system, regulating the motions of planets and stars, this love, great and strong, subdues into itself other loves. Step by step the victory is achieved. . . . The growth of spiritual life is the image Nebuchadnezzar set up; we leave the stages of clay and iron, of brass and silver, till we come to the pure and refined gold of a saintly spirit.—J. G. PILKINGTON.

Vain and presumptuous is the trust
Which in our works we place;
Salvation from a higher source
Flows to the human race.

—WATTS.

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March 27.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.—JOHN xiv. 27.

H the happy peace and serenity that a believer enjoys in every state and condition! . . . No valley of trouble without a door of hope; no barren wilderness without manna; no dry rock without water; no dungeon without light; no fiery trial without comfort.—SPURSTOWE.

Christianity is not a sepulchral thing, a gloomy life, a depressed condition of social existence. . . . True, the Christian has his sorrows, but these are not unsweetened. True, the Christian life has its shadows and its showers, but these are not unmingled with bright beams of heavenly light; and the saddest aspects of a Christian daily life are but the April showers that usher in the approaching bright and beautiful summer.—DR CUMMING.

Let faith each meek petition fill,
And waft it to the skies,
And teach our hearts 'tis goodness still
That grants it or denies.
—JOSEPH DACRE CARLYLE.

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March 28.

Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.—HEB. iv. 16.

FAITH is an humble, self-denying grace; it makes the Christian nothing in himself, and all in God.—LEIGHTON.

Our prayers often fail to enter heaven from the same cause that the Israelites entered not Canaan, because of our unbelief. The hungry child never doubts that he will receive bread from his father. Prayer to be effectual, then, must have faith. It must be fervent too. The arrow, though it be well-pointed and feathered, is of little use unless pulled to the head by a strong hand. —J. G. PILKINGTON.

Gracious God, in mercy hear us,
Blot out all the guilty past;
On the wings of faith upbear us,
And receive us home at last.
—DR C. ROGERS.

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March 29.

The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.—JAMES v. 11.

GOD is not only very energetic but tender also in action; He is the God of the dewdrops, as well as the God of the thunder-showers; the God of the tender grass blade, as much as of the mountain oak. . . . He can crush a world, and yet bind up a wound.—POWER.

Our prayers and God's mercies are like two buckets in a well—while the one ascends, the other descends; so while our prayers ascend to God in heaven, His blessings and mercies descend to us upon the earth.—*Sunday Teacher's Treasury.*

Prostrate my contrite heart I rend,
My God, my Father, and my Friend,
Do not forsake me in my end.
—EARL OF ROSCOMMON.

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March 30.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.—HOSEA X. 12.

DIVINE benediction is always invisibly breathed on painful and lawful diligence.—FULLER.

Christians wonder why they have so many doubts. It is because they are all the time occupied with themselves. We must work for others, and if we work for others, we shall ourselves be blest. "He that watereth shall himself be watered."—D. L. MOODY.

Source of life, and light, and blessing,
Raise our hearts to Thee above!
And be with us while expressing
All the wonders of Thy love.
Hear us, Father!
Darkness from our minds remove.
—A. R. BONAR.

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March 31.

What think ye of Christ?—MATT. xxii. 42.

WHEN thou hearest of Christ, do not think Him God only, or man only, but both together.—ST CHRYSOSTOM.

As all the waters meet in the sea, and as all the lights meet in the sun, so all the perfections and excellences of all the saints and angels meet in Christ; nay, Christ has not only the holiness of angels, the loveliness of saints, and the treasure of heaven, but also the fulness of the Godhead, the riches of the Deity are in Him. For it hath pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell—fulness of grace, fulness of knowledge, fulness of love, fulness of glory.—DYER.

Helpless and sad, O Christ, we come to Thee;
Thou for our sakes wast to the desert led,
Didst cross unharmed temptation's stormy sea,
That we, Thy children, might be comforted.

—R. H. BAYNES.

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April 1.

Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.—MATT. xviii. 3.

UR disease has gone too far to admit of palliatives, our wounds are too deep to be healed, till they are searched and probed to the bottom. The only safe expedient is an immediate return to God.—ROBERT HALL.

Conversion is no reforming of the old building, but it takes all down, and erects a new structure. . . . The sincere Christian is quite a new fabric—from the foundation to the top stone, all new. He is a new man, a new creation. All things are become new. Conversion is a deep work, a heart-work; it turns all outside down, and makes a man be in a new world.—R. ALLEINE.

Hail, Sovereign Love, that first began
The scheme to rescue fallen man;
Hail, matchless, free, eternal grace
That gave my soul a hiding-place.

—JEHOIADA BREWER.

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April 2.

Search the Scriptures.—JOHN v. 39.

N the Bible we breath the atmosphere of eternity.—ADOLPH SAPHIR.

The Bible has depths in which an elephant can swim, as well as shallows in which a lamb can wade.—ST AUGUSTINE. The Bible is the treasure of the poor, the solace of the sick, and the support of the dying.—ROBERT HALL. Remember then, as we have seen, the Bible is not a puzzle for wise heads, but a lamp for the wayfaring man.—DANIEL MOORE.

Wondrous book, it levels all, and yet leaves variety of ranks; it humbles the lofty, and exalts the lowliest; it condemns the best, and yet saves the worst; it engages the study of angels, and is not above the understanding of a little child.—DR GUTHRIE.

Almighty God, Thy word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Oh, may it grow in humble hearts,
And righteous fruits abound.
—JOHN CAWOOD.

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April 3.

He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.—JAMES iv. 6.

UMAN pride is a upas tree; it poisons the whole neighbourhood. The Gospel axe strikes it down.—DR J. MACFARLANE.

Remember what thou wert before thy birth—nothing; what thou wert for many years after—weakness; what in all thy life—a great sinner; what in all thy excellences—a mere debtor to God, to thy parents, to the earth, to all the creatures. Upon these or the like meditations, if we dwell and frequently retire to them, we shall see nothing more reasonable than to be humble, and nothing more foolish than to be proud.—BISHOP TAYLOR.

The sweetest bird builds near the ground,
The loveliest flower springs low;
And we must stoop for happiness
If we its worth would know.

—C. SWAIN.

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April 4.

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.—2 Cor. iv. 6.

KNOWLEDGE and good parts managed by grace are like the rod in Moses' hand—wonder-workers, but turn to serpents when they are cast upon the ground, and employed in promoting earthly designs. Learning in religious hearts, like that gold in the Israelites' ear-rings, is a most precious ornament; but if men pervert it to base, wicked ends, or begin to make an idol of it, as they did a golden calf of their ear-rings, it then becomes an abomination.—Arrowsmith.

We have a Priest on high, who is touched with a fellow-feeling of our infirmities. My soul, unable to support itself in its aerial flight among the spirits of the invisible, now reposes on Christ, who stands revealed to my conceptions in the figure, the countenance, the heart, the sympathies of a man. —Dr Chalmers.

Where art Thou, O my God? I call by day,
While the light trembles on my troubled breast;
To Thee I cry, 'mid evening's shadows grey;
In the night season do I take no rest.
—Joseph Stammers.

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April 5.

Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.—1 THESS. v. 24.

GOD builds for every sinner, if he will but come back, a highway of golden promises from the depths of degradation and sin clean up to his Father's house.—H. W. BEECHER.

If our heart be clean before Him, if He be to us our chief and sovereign choice, dear above all, and above all desired, then all else matters little. That which concerneth us He will perfect in stillness and in power, and His name will be our solace and strength, the beginning of every work, the end of every desire, our motive and our hope, our meditation and our confidence. The name of Jesus will be our all.—MANNING.

God of my life, and Author of my days!
Permit my feeble voice to lisp Thy praise;
And trembling, take upon a mortal tongue
That hallow'd name to harps of seraphs sung.
Yet here the brightest seraphs could no more
Than hide their faces, tremble, and adore.
—MRS BARBAULD.

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April 6.

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.—Isa. lv. 6.

THE honour of the Supreme Ruler requires that His supremacy should be acknowledged, His agency confessed.—Robert Hall. In every age God has regarded the earnest whispers of the human heart, and bent His ear to the supplication of the lowly.—Dr C. Rogers.

As sure as God is God, if you seek Him aright through Christ, the day shall come when the kiss of full assurance shall be on your lip. Thou mayst have despised Him, but thou shalt know Him yet to be thy Father and thy Friend. . . . If thou be a real seeker, the hands that have been stained with lust shall one day grasp the harp of gold, and the head that has plotted against the Most High shall yet be girt with gold.—Spurgeon.

O loving Father, give Thy poor child strength!
Thou knowest she has none;
O loving Father, give her strength to say,
"Thy will be done!"

—Jennette Threlfall.

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April 7.

Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.—ISA. lv. 2.

THE immortal mind will not be satisfied with wealth, pleasure, or honour. . . . Alexander wept on the throne of the world, and Diocletian and Charles V. descended voluntarily from the throne to private life.—BARNES.

God's proclamation of mercy to a lost rebel world is clogged with no exceptions.—DR GUTHRIE. The Lord Jesus has purchased for us every blessing; He freely bestows on every believer whatever can conduce to his present comfort and everlasting felicity.—THOMAS SCOTT. Act up to the light that you have gotten by reading earnestly, and praying importunately, and striving laboriously, and to you more will be given.—DR CHALMERS.

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee:
"Trust in God, and do the right."
—DR N. MACLEOD.

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April 8.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.—JAMES i. 27.

THERE can be no form of good but what is comprised in religion; it implies purity in the affections as well as actions.—ROBERT HALL.

Let no man apprehend for himself or others that he can produce too much good, or remove too much evil. It is not on the side of expansive benevolence that his mistakes are likely to be made. Let him do all the good he can, and wherever he can—he will never do too much for his own happiness, or the happiness of others. —BENTHAM.

O Thou, whose power o'er moving worlds presides,
Whose voice created, and whose wisdom guides,
On darkling man in pure effulgence shine,
And cheer the clouded mind with light divine.

—JOHNSON.

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April 9.

Walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.—ECCLES. xi. 9.

LL of us, who are worth anything, spend our manhood in unlearning the follies, or expiating the mistakes of our youth.—SHELLEY.

No matter how good the walls and the materials are, if the foundations are not strong, the building will not stand.—BEECHER. It will usually be found that those who are vicious in manhood dropped a seed of vice in the morning of life.—*Sunday Teacher's Treasury.* Young man, with the flash of young hope in thine eye, existence extending in interminable vista before thee, pause ever and anon on the enchanted highway, and put the solemn question, How long have I to live?—DR MACDUFF.

Though fools may make a mock at sin,
O teach us wisely to begin
To seek the safe and narrow road
That leads to happiness and God.
—W. H. BATHURST.

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April 10.

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.—MARK xiv. 38.

LET us be watchful against small sins, if we desire to be preserved from greater; for we are trained by sins of weaker evidence to sins of greater guilt.—DR BATES. Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.—MATTHEW HENRY.

Edmund Burke used to speak of keeping "the outposts of virtue," and if we once give way in the least degree to our own besetting sin, our thorn in the flesh, the channels of passion or of pride, which we have thought entirely choked up, will soon be active once more. If the joints of our harness be loosened, though the armour be not taken off, the darts of the adversary may find entrance into a vital part.—J. G. PILKINGTON.

Trust no forms of guilty passion,
Fiends can look like angels bright;
Trust no custom, school, or fashion,
"Trust in God, and do the right"
—NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D.

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April 11.

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; for praise is comely for the upright.—Ps. xxxiii. 1.

THE love of God is the light of the soul.—*Proverb.* Joy is the happiness of love. . . . It is love taking a look of its treasure, and surrendering itself to bliss without foreboding.—Dr J. Hamilton.

The saints have a sweet life between them and Christ. There is much sweet solace of love between them and Him, when He feedeth among the lilies, and cometh into His garden, and maketh a feast of honeycombs, and drinketh His wine and His milk, and crieth, "Eat, O friends! drink —yea, drink abundantly, O well-beloved." One hour of this labour is worth a shipful of the world's drunken and muddy joy; nay, even the gate of heaven is the sunny side of the brae, and the very garden of the world.—Rutherford.

Joy is our duty, glory, health,
The sunshine of the soul;
Our best encomium on the Power
Who sweetly plans the whole.
—Young.

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April 12.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain. —EXOD. XX. 7.

EVERY time whenever thou shalt find thyself to have let slip an oath, punish thyself for it by missing the next meal.—CHRYSOSTOM. When we hear a man swear to a thing, it is pretty good evidence that he knows what he is saying to be false, and we should be on our guard.—BARNES.

It is difficult to account for a practice which gratifies no passion and promotes no interest, unless we ascribe it to a certain vanity of appearing superior to religious fear, which tempts men to make bold with their Maker.—ROBERT HALL.

From false, and rash, and idle words,
Defend my tongue, O Lord;
Let salt of grace hang on my lips,
To season every word.

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April 13.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.—1 JOHN iv. 8.

HAIL, holy love; thou word that sums all bliss!
Emblem of God.
—POLLOK.

Religion is love; and the love of the Holy Being or object is the love of all. The kingdom of God is one. His people, though called by different names, are one. They are united to each other and to God, and the bond which unites the whole kingdom in one is love.—BARNES. When there is love in the heart, there are rainbows in the eyes, which cover every black cloud with gorgeous hues.—BEECHER.

What is the Lord? Survey the world,
Each hill, each vale, each stream, each grove;
From every rock, and field, and tree,
A voice replies, that "God is love!"
—D. T. K. DRUMMOND.

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April 14.

He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.—EXOD. XV. 2.

GOD may manifest Himself, and does most frequently manifest Himself, in the still small voice, and we may, for good reasons, prefer to meet Him there; but it is better that He should come in the mighty rushing wind, or the thunder, or the earthquake, than that He should leave us unvisited.—DR WILLIAM LANDELS.

I do not find any sparrows with large store-houses, or any swallows with a great quantity of grain laid up for the morrow, and yet I have never taken up a sparrow that has been starved to death, and seldom or ever do you find a swallow that has perished of cold. God "careth for them; and are ye not much better than they?"—C. H. SPURGEON.

Oh, enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
—*Scottish Psalms.*

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April 15.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.—JOHN iv. 24.

THE devotion of the nunnery and the monastery is at best the heroism of a soldier who shuns the battle; but the devotion of the man in business life, who turns all to the glory of God, is the courage of one who seeks the thickest of the fray.—C. H. SPURGEON.

The meretricious attractions of form may bring numbers, but it will not add true strength to the Church. The artistic splendour of ritual may kindle many hearts with emotion, but it will be with unhallowed fire. — DR CAIRD. Many churches are like conversatories, in which the members are like a flower in a flower-pot; there it is in the flower-pot, and it cannot get out. . . . They are like geraniums trained for show.—BEECHER.

'Tis not the temple's shrine
Which holy makes the place:
Where'er God is, is power Divine:
Where'er God helps, is grace.
—LORD KINLOCH.

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April 16.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him.—Ps. xxviii. 7.

REDEMPTION is the service and the song of all eternity.—POLLOK.

If God would but open our eyes, and give us simple child-like faith to look to Jesus, to sit under His shadow, then would songs of joy arise from our dwellings.—M'CHEYNE. Let us believe and be saved. We shall be saved, and so able to fulfil our high vocation to live for God and serve Him. We shall be saved, and so experience the blessedness which may be enjoyed now in the service of God. And this salvation will progress and endure, for the gift of God is eternal life.—NEWMAN HALL.

Ground of my hope the cross appears,
I see the Man of Sorrows bleed;
I bid adieu to guilty fears,
And in His death my pardon read.
—THOMAS KELLY.

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April 17.

Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, Thou shalt purge them away. —Ps. lxv. iii.

THE blood of Jesus Christ is a deluge that drowns all the mountains of transgression; that pure ocean washes away all stains of guilt. —Robert Hall.

He that hath tasted the bitterness of sin will fear to commit it, and he that hath felt the sweetness of mercy will fear to offend it.—Charnock. Sin in the soul is like Jonah in the ship, it turns the sweetest waters into a troubled ocean.—Secker. You have not to seek that your heart may be kept, but made clean; it is not health preserved, but health restored, you want. —Dr Guthrie.

O Saviour, whose mercy, severe in its kindness,
Has chasten'd my wanderings, and guided my way;
Adored be the power which illumined my blindness,
And weaned me from phantoms that smiled to betray.
—Sir Robert Grant.

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April 18.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. —2 COR. x. 5.

A MAN sincerely obedient lays such a charge upon his whole man, as Mary, the mother of Christ, did upon all the servants at the feast, "Whatsoever the Lord saith unto you, do it."—BROOKS. Obedience, forced by the terrors of the law, wants the genuine flavour and sweetness of that obedience, which springs forth from a heart warmed and meliorated with the love of God in Christ Jesus.—SALTER.

As light opens the close shut flower-bud to receive light, or as the sunbeam playing on a sleeper's eyes, by its gentle irritation opens them to see its own brightness; so the truth of God, shining on the soul, quickens and stirs into activity the faculty by which that very truth is perceived.—DR CAIRD.

O Lamb of God! that tak'st away
Our sin, and bidd'st our sorrow cease,
Turn Thou, oh, turn this night to day,
Grant us Thy peace.

—MRS ALESSIE B. FAUSSETT.

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April 19.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—JOHN iii. 16.

HERE are no more real enemies of Christ than those who deny the doctrine of the cross. If they do not accept Christ to wash them, they soon prove that they have no part in Him.—C. H. SPURGEON.

What more blessed and delightful meditations can I daily dwell upon, than to think thus: God has loved me, even me, when I was His enemy; and so loved me, that He gave me His only Son.—BOGATSKY. The cross of Christ was the noontide of everlasting love; the meridian splendour of eternal mercy.—M'LAURIN.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

—TOPLADY.

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April 20.

Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.—NEH. ix. 17.

GOD never pardons one sin, but He pardons all; and we dishonour Him more by not trusting in Him for complete forgiveness, than we did by sinning against Him.—ADAM.

All earthly affection is but a glow-worm light, compared to that which blazes with such effulgence in the heart of God.—H. W. BEECHER.

I cannot drive this sin away,
Which makes me still anew its prey;
I can but to my cross repair
To hear Thee speak my pardon there.
—LORD KINLOCH.

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April 21.

With Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.—Ps. xxxvi. 9.

THE best way to see Divine light is to put out thine own candle. —QUARLES.

Can you tell why the needle trembles to the pole? the buds feel their way to the spring? the flowers to sunlight? They are made for it, and souls are so made for Christ. He created them, loved them, died for them, and when He comes near, they feel His presence, and cannot live without Him.—KER.

There is a pure and tranquil wave,
That rolls around the throne of love,
Whose waters gladden, as they lave,
The peaceful shores above.

—WILLIAM BALL.

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April 22.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.—JAMES v. 16.

THERE is something in the very act of prayer that for a time stills the violence of passion, and elevates and purifies the affections.—JEREMY TAYLOR.

What makes devotion well nigh impossible is the habit of living without prayer. —MANNING. Prayer is not a sentiment or a theory, it is a working instrument.—POWER.

My soul shall praise Thee, O my God,
Through all my mortal days,
And to eternity prolong
Thy vast, Thy boundless praise.
—OTTIWELL HEGINBOTHAM.

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April 23.

Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.—MARK iii. 35.

ECOLLECT that the Gospel of Christ is the very voice of God. —ROBERT HALL.

Open the door of the heart to Him, and the very mind and soul of Jesus will pass into yours; your spirit will be suffused with His; the very heart of Jesus will be beating within your breast—Christ will be in you the hope of glory.—DR CAIRD.

"Come unto me, ye weary,
And I will give you rest;"
Oh, blessed voice of Jesus,
Which comes to hearts oppressed.
—W. C. DIX.

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April 24.

Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto Thy name: the upright shall dwell in Thy presence.—Ps. cxl. 13.

How a high motive sanctifies a deed,
Even the least! A look may be a psalm;
Work may be prayer, and gladness may be praise;
Sickness, best service; silence, eloquence;
Everything incense; if the heart be true
And the intent religious.

—S. W. Partridge.

A good man is like the day, enlightening and warming all he shines on, and is always ascending upwards to a region of more constant purity.—Feltham.

Our Father, throned in heaven above,
All glory to Thy name of love,
Thy kingdom come, Thy holy will
May earth as well as heaven fulfil.

—John Guthrie, D.D.

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April 25.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—MATT. v. 16.

EVERY man ought to consider himself as the minister and steward of the Church in his own house.—BISHOP BLOMFIELD.

Our real character is shown far more by our little actions than by our great ones. The former occur every day of our life, the latter but seldom.—T. B. GREEN.

Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace, and inward light,
Star upon our path abiding,
"Trust in God, and do the right."
—NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D.

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April 26.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. —PHIL. iv. 6.

GOD's very kindest answers to our prayers
Come often in denials or delays.
—S. W. PARTRIDGE.

When we are enabled to pray earnestly, we may be sure that blessings are coming, and that we shall certainly receive in due time a seasonable and visible help.—BOGATSKY.

Come, let us sing our Maker's praise,
Whose goodness cheers our youthful days;
His name we ever ought to bless,
The Father of the fatherless.
—JOHN BURTON, JUN.

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April 27.

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence. —PROV. xiv. 26.

A GODLY man is as much afflicted with the consideration "Thou God seest me" as with "The Lord strikes me."—DR DONNE.

Our extremity was God's opportunity; when our sin had abounded, His grace found room much more to abound.—R. HALL. A breath from heaven in the sail will carry the vessel up against the stream.—ARNOT.

Teach me, my God, my King!
In all things Thee to see;
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for Thee.

—HERBERT.

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April 28.

Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him. He also shall be my salvation.—JOB xiii. 15, 16.

SENSE of God's presence in love is sufficient to rebuke all anxiety and fear in the worst and most dreadful condition.—DR J. OWEN.

In the stillness of the lonely sick-bed, amidst worldly reverses, in declining health, or under bitter bereavement, when we stand by the bier, or bend over the closing grave of old friends and coevals—in such passages of man's history, the soul, eternity, God, become for the moment real things, and the most thoughtless and worldly-minded is forced to pause and think.—DR CAIRD.

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

—COWPER.

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April 29.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.—ROM. xii. 10.

EN resemble the gods in nothing so much as in doing good to their fellow-creatures.—CICERO. Benevolence is the minister of God.—CARLYLE.

We should be very sure that it is regard to God's truth and another's welfare that actuates us, and not the mere wilfulness that seeks its own way. There are few things in which a man needs to pray more for clear-sightedness than to be kept from confounding God's will with his own strength of caprice, and from fancying he is seeking another's good, when he is merely anxious to see the reflection of his own peculiarities.—KER.

From the low prayer of want and plaint of woe,
O never, never turn away thine ear.

. . . . .

All human weal and woe, learn thou to make thine own.

—DR J. BEATTIE.

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April 30.

Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.—HEB. xiii. 14.

OUR glorious home above,
The city of our God,
The resting-place of peace and love,
The pilgrim's sweet abode.
—D. T. K. DRUMMOND.

I should prefer a firm religious faith to every other blessing, for it makes life a discipline of goodness, creates new hopes when all earthly hopes vanish, and throws over the decay and the destruction of existence the most gorgeous of all lights. —SIR H. DAVY.

There is a happy land,
Far, far away,
Where saints in glory stand
Bright, bright as day.
—ANDREW YOUNG.

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May 1.

Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. —EPH. V. 11.

LORD, teach me by Thy wisdom "to keep my mouth as it were with a bridal," and to weigh all my words like gold.—BOGATSKY.

Sin ever hangs upon our skirts, and harasses our way to life; it waits through every day, and watches in every hour; it besets all our paths, and lurks beside all our duties; it mingles in our toils, and hides in our secret chamber; and masks itself under our religion, and follows us to the altar of God: through all this we have to run our way to life.—MANNING.

Onward, holy champion!
Run the Christian race;
Leave the world behind thee,
Heavenward set thy face!
—B. H. KENNEDY, D.D.

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May 2.

Let no man glory in men.—1 Cor. iii. 21.

OUR own heart, and not other men's opinions, forms our true honour. —Coleridge. He that hath a good heart will be both contented and a good companion, and a good neighbour, and easily see what is fit to be done by him.—Bishop Patrick.

In the closest local proximity to the unholy, a pure and heavenly spirit is removed more widely beyond their range of vision than if oceans rolled between them! It preserves amidst them a Divine *incognito*. —Dr Caird.

Leave carnal joys below
To men of meaner taste;
Think, speak, and sing of nothing now
But Christ, the First and Last.
—William Hammond.

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May 8.

Fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth.—JOSH. xxiv. 14.

HE who walks in godly simplicity and humility, accounting his own infirmities always the greatest, will best be preserved from being puffed up and sifted by the enemy of souls.—BOGATSKY.

The sincerity of a true religious principle cannot be better known than by the readiness with which the thoughts advert to God, and the pleasure with which they are employed in devout exercises.—J. MASON.

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing His power and His love,
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

—SIR R. GRANT.

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May 4.

Be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God.—1 TIM. vi. 17.

LL reckoned and examined, I had rather be the poorest believer than the greatest king on earth. —ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Be not proud of riches, but afraid of them, lest they be as silver bars to cross the way to heaven.—MASON. If thou art rich, then show the greatness of thy fortune, or what is better, the greatess onf thy soul, in the meekness of thy conversation.—STERNE.

Arise, my soul! and thou, my voice,
In songs of early praise rejoice!
O great Creator! heavenly King!
Thy praises ever let me sing!
—FLATMAN.

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May 5.

As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.—LUKE vi. 31.

"GIVE me a rule, concise and true,
To guide the steps I should pursue."
"—To each, to all, precisely do
That which you'd have them do to you."
—C. ROGERS.

Always say a kind word if you can, if only that it may come in, perhaps with singular opportuneness, entering some mournful man's darkened room, like a beautiful fire-fly, whose happy circumvolutions he cannot but watch, forgetting his many troubles.—SIR ARTHUR HELPS.

Speak gently! Love doth whisper low
The vows that true hearts bind;
And gently friendship's accents flow,
Affection's voice is kind.
—GEORGE W. LANGFORD.

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May 6.

Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.—Ps. xxxi. 24.

THE servants of the Lord should be as bold for their Master as the devil's servants are for theirs.—COUNTESS OF WARWICK.

I am more and more convinced of this world's tastelessness and treachery, that it is with God alone that any satisfying converse is to be had.—DR CHALMERS.

When through the torn sail the wild tempest is streaming,
When o'er the dark wave the red lightning is gleaming,
Nor hope lends a ray the poor seaman to cherish,
We fly to our Maker; "Help, Lord, or we perish."

—REGINALD HEBER, D.D.

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May 7.

For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. —PROV. ii. 6.

ENGAGE in no pursuit in which you cannot look up to God and say, "Bless me in this, O my Father."—L. RICHMOND.

The words of the Lord are pure words; as the silver tried in the furnace, there is no filth nor dross remaining in them, they are the storehouse of wisdom and of the knowledge of God; in respect whereof all the wisdom of this world is but vain and foolish.—BISHOP JEWELL.

In every place, in every hour,
  Whate'er my wayward lot may be,
In joy or grief, in sun or shower,
  Father and Lord, I turn to Thee.
—LADY FLORA HASTINGS.

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May 8.

Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me hitherto? —2 SAM. vii. 18.

THERE is small chance of truth at the goal where there is not a child-like humility at the starting-post.—COLERIDGE. Nothing so wears down the sharpness of conscience, and dulls its perception of our actual state, as self-excusing.—MANNING.

Never forget that the day will come when all our virtues will be tried as by fire, and that this fire humility alone will have strength to withstand.—ST EPHRAIM.

O Thou, from whom all goodness flows,
I lift my heart to Thee;
In all my sorrows, conflicts, woes,
Dear Lord, remember me.
—THOMAS HAWEIS, M.D.

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May 9.

Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips. —PROV. xxiv. 28.

IT is grievously perverting the design of speech, to use it to the defaming and disquieting our neighbour.—BARROW. Listen not to the tale-bearer or slanderer, for he tells thee nothing out of goodwill, but as he discovereth of the secrets of others, so he will of thine in turn.—SOCRATES.

Calumny would soon starve and die of itself, if nobody took it in, and gave it lodging.—LEIGHTON.

Perish "policy," and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light;
Whether losing, whether winning,
"Trust in God, and do the right."
—DR N. MACLEOD.

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May 10.

Lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.—1 TIM. ii. 2.

OH, cherish God's best giving,
Falling from above!
Life were not worth living,
Were it not for love.
—GERALD MASSEY.

A master among his servants, a workman among his associates, a mother among her children, a sister among brothers, may be dropping words and radiating influences of which there shall be no report till the last great disclosure shall bring out the "Well done, good and faithful servant." —KER. Our love to our brethren is, as respects ourselves and our posterity, not only the evidence but the measure of our love to Christ.—BISHOP REYNOLDS.

Speak gently! He who gave His life
To bend man's stubborn will,
When elements were fierce in strife,
Said to them, "Peace, be still!"
—G. W. LANGFORD.

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May 11.

I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; and I will glorify Thy name for evermore.—Ps. lxxxvi. 12.

SPIRIT of devotion is one of the greatest blessings, and, by consequence, the want of it one of the greatest misfortunes which a Christian can experience.—PALEY.

There is in the things of God, to those who practise them, a deliciousness that makes us love them, and that love admits us into God's cabinet, and strangely clarifies the understanding by the purification of the heart.—JEREMY TAYLOR.

Hallelujah! raise, oh, raise
To our God the song of praise:
All His servants join to sing
God our Saviour, and our King.
—JOSIAH CONDER.

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May 12.

Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—ROM. vi. 11.

ALL, whether the beings which are above the heavens, or the glorious order of angels, whether the invisible or visible powers—all, unless they believe in the alone efficacy of the blood of Christ, are obnoxious to judgment.—IGNATIUS.

There is no Gospel at all, if we are not by nature lost sinners. Let us admit the latter, and we shall find the former to be good tidings of great joy.—JOHN MACFARLANE, LL.D.

Hope, Christian soul; in every stage
Of this thine earthly pilgrimage,
Let heavenly joy thy thoughts engage:
Abound in hope.
—BENJAMIN HALL KENNEDY, D.D.

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May 13.

Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.—2 CHRON. XX. 20.

CHRIST is not valued at all unless He be valued above all.—AUGUSTINE. True religion is a union of the soul with God; or, in the apostle's phrase, it is Christ formed within us.—SCOUGAL.

This antiquated volume is still the "Book of books," the oracle of oracles, the beacon of beacons, the poor man's treasury, the child's companion, the sick man's health, the dying man's life, shallows for the infant to walk in, depths for the giant intellect to explore and adore.—DR MACDUFF.

Heavenly Father, to whose eye
Future things unfolded lie,
Through the desert, where I stray,
Let Thy counsels guide my way.
—JOSIAH CONDER.

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May 14.

Sing unto God, sing praises to His name. —Ps. lxviii. 4.

IF I dwell in love and love in me, surely I shall have its sweet and plenteous communication; and shall ever drink of the rivers of pleasure. —R. BAXTER.

To bend the knee with external decorum, or to send forth from the lip mechanical sounds and intonations, is an act which calls for scarcely any mental exertion; but it demands the strenuous upgathering of all our inward energies in order to pray with the spirit or to offer up the true inner melody of adoring gratitude and love to God.—DR CAIRD.

Song of the pilgrim! kindly given
To cheer us on our way to heaven,
Divinely taught, our souls delight
To "walk by faith, and not by sight."
—REV. CHARLES BULLOCK, D.D.

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May 15.

Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.—Ps. lxxiii. 1.

THE divine life is progressive, the views of a Christian become clearer; his faith strengthens, his conditions improve.—ROBERT HALL.

Now I say, the very proper character and essential tincture of God himself is nothing else but goodness, nay, I may be bold to add, that God is God because He is the highest and most perfect good; and God is not therefore good, because God out of an arbitrary will of His would have it so.—CUDWORTH.

Hark! 'tis your heavenly Father's call,
How soft the charming accents fall;
"Ask and receive, my son," He cries,
With loving heart and melting eyes.
—OTTIWELL HEGINBOTHAM.

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May 16.

God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.—ROM. v. 8.

JESUS CHRIST was made a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus Christ being made sin for us is the meritorious cause and means of our being made the righteousness of God in Him.—BURKITT.

When Christ opened the holy of holies, He did not make a little slit therein; but the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, so that the hugest sinner that ever lived might come through it to the blood-besprinkled mercy-seat.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Father of peace, and God of love,
We own Thy power to save;
That power by which our Shepherd rose
Victorious from the grave.

—DR DODDRIDGE.

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May 17.

Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I put my trust.—Ps. xvi. 1.

GRACIOUS God! on Thee we call,
Father, Friend, and Judge of all,
Holy Saviour, heavenly King,
Homage to Thy throne we bring.
—M. F. TUPPER.

Be careful to preserve upon your minds a serious regard and reverence to things sacred; that is, to everything that bears a relation to God and His religion, particularly His Word, His name, His day, His ordinances, His house, and His ministers.
—BISHOP GIBSON.

Amidst these various scenes of ills,
Each stroke some kind design fulfils;
And shall I murmur at my God,
When sovereign love directs the rod?
—NATHANIEL COTTON, M.D.

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May 18.

Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.—EPH. iv. 24.

REJECT the offered salvation, and you die in your sins; receive the offered salvation, and you pass from death to life, eternal life, the gift of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. —ROBERT HALL.

When you come before that great and just Judge, you will reject your own works and inherent righteousness, and rely upon the sufferings and satisfaction of our blessed Saviour, and the justice purchased for us by it.—BARLOW.

Grace is the sweetest sound
That ever reached our ears;
When conscience charged, and justice frowned,
'Twas grace removed our fears.
—THOMAS KELLY.

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May 19.

Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.—EPH. iv. 1.

UNION is strength: God gathers together His elect in one body in Christ, that by uniting their various energies in one work, and for one end, they may strengthen each other's hands, and effectually bring under foot the powers of darkness.—BISHOP TROWER.

The setting up of the constant worship of God in our families is so necessary to the keeping up of religion, that where it is neglected, I do not see how any family can in reason be esteemed a family of Christians, or indeed have any religion at all.—TILLOTSON.

Join, all ye saints beneath the sky,
Your grateful praise to give;
Sing loud hosannahs to the Lord,
Who died that you might live.

—DR WARDLAW.

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May 20.

What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall He teach in the way that He shall choose.—Ps. xxv. 12.

THE life of a wicked or worldly man is a very drudgery infinitely more toilsome, vexatious, and unpleasant than a godly life is.—Bishop Sanderson.

A good man is a blessing wherever his lot is cast; his light cannot be hid, it shines in public and in private, in the domestic circle and in the world around him. He is a minister of good to all within his reach.—H. Stowell.

Oh! let my soul for ever lie
Beneath the blessings of Thine eye;
'Tis heaven on earth, 'tis heaven above,
To see Thy face, to taste Thy love.
—Watts.

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May 21.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.—1 JOHN ii. 17.

IF as yet you know not God, you know not what happiness is.—C. NEALE. The best way to know what God is, is to transcribe His perfections in our lives and actions; to be holy, and just, and good, and merciful, as He is; also that a hearty desire and endeavour to do the will of God is the best security and preservation against dangerous errors.—TILLOTSON.

Take heed that under any scruple, doubt, or temptation whatsoever, you never let any reasonings satisfy your conscience, which will not be a sufficient answer or apology to the Great Judge at the last day. —WATTS.

Let the road be long and dreary,
And its ending out of sight;
Foot it bravely, strong or weary,
"Trust in God, and do the right."
—DR N. MACLEOD.

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May 22.

Endure afflictions.—2 TIM. iv. 5.

FFLICTIONS are a crystal glass, wherein the soul hath the clearest sight of the ugly face of sin.—BROOKS.

Did you know your pride, and overmuch love of flesh and ease, you would say, that pain is a physic which you need, were it but to help on your willingness to die. Be patient then under the pain, and careful to improve it, and thankful for the profit.—R. BAXTER. The light would never be so acceptable were it not for that usual intercourse of darkness.—HOOKER.

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb.
WILLIAM COWPER.

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May 23.

My son, give me thine heart.—PROV. xxiii. 26.

ALTHOUGH I fail, I weep;
Although I halt in pace,
Yet still with trembling steps I creep
Unto the throne of grace.
O then let wrath remove,
For love will do the deed;
Love will the conquest gain! With love
Even stony hearts will bleed.
—G. HERBERT.

O God, take my heart, for I cannot give it Thee; and then keep it, for I am unable to keep it myself.—MASSILLON. The heart is so deceitful that it requires continual watching, lest it be corrupted willingly; and, at the same time, it is often so weak that there is need of no less caution, lest it be led astray unawares.—BISHOP C. B. SUMNER.

'Tis my happiness below
Not to live without the cross,
But the Saviour's power to know,
Sanctifying every loss.
—WILLIAM COWPER.

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May 24.

Stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord, and likewise at even.—1 CHRON. xxiii. 30.

ET our devotion often bring this meditation to our minds. Every time we seek repose in bed, let us reflect on all the wonders of balmy sleep, and bless our Preserver, who even while we sleep does such great things for us.—STURM.

Without prayer there is no such thing as religion; all that is so called will melt away into nothingness if it be not concentrated and shaped into prayer.—PALMER. Not by steps, but by prayer, do we come to God.—BISHOP ANDREWS.

Awake, and sing the song
Of Moses and the Lamb;
Tune every heart and every tongue
To praise the Saviour's name.
—WILLIAM HAMMOND.

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May 25.

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud.—Ps. xl. 4.

THE nettle grows high, while the violet is low, and almost obscured by leaves, and chiefly discovered by its fragrance. The former is emblematical of a proud person; but the latter resembles one that is truly humble.—DR MANTON.

Pride may disguise itself as it will in its own majesty, but in the presence of the High and Lofty One, it is but littleness after all. —F. W. ROBERTSON. In the "fear of the Lord" must be the confidence of our strength.—BISHOP LAKE.

O Lord, my best desires fulfil,
And help me to resign
Life, health, and comfort to Thy will,
And make Thy pleasure mine.
—WILLIAM COWPER.

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May 26.

He that reapeth receiveth wages.—JOHN iv. 36.

THERE are great rewards like jewelled crowns; there are little rewards like diamond dust; the great deed of love shall receive its reward. —POWER. The teacher in the Sunday school who sows the seed in early life, shall rejoice with the minister of the Gospel who may gather in the harvest.—BARNES.

There is a perennial nobleness, and even sacredness in work. Were he never so benighted, forgetful of his high calling, there is always hope in a man that actually and earnestly works; in idleness alone there is perpetual despair.—CARLYLE.

Go, labour on while it is day,
The world's dark night is hastening on;
Speed, speed thy work, cast sloth away,
It is not thus that souls are won.

—BONAR.

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May 27.

Blessed is the man . . . that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it.—Isa. lvi. 2.

O day most calm, most bright,
The fruit of this, the next world's bud,
The indorsement of supreme delight,
Writ by a Friend and with His blood;
The couch of time, care's balm and bay;
The week were dark, but for thy light;
Thy torch doth show the way.
—G. Herbert.

He that would prepare for heaven must honour the Sabbath on earth. He that would hope for the spiritual joys there, must acquire a taste and aptitude for them here.
—Bishop D. Wilson.

Hail! hallowed day of heavenly rest,
To man an Eden given;
The day which the Creator bless'd,
A type and pledge of heaven.
—Hugh Stowell.

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May 28.

I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.—1 PET. ii. 11.

RIME and punishment grow out of one stem. Punishment is a fruit that unsuspected ripens within the flower of the pleasure that concealed it.—EMERSON. He serveth his greatest enemy who serveth the devil; his fellow, who serveth the lust of his flesh.—BOYS.

All sin is direct rebellion against God; and with what notions soever we sugar it and sweeten it, yet God can never smile upon it. He will never make a truce with it.—CUDWORTH.

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.

—COWPER.

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May 29.

I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also.—1 COR. xiv. 15.

ON His grace thy soul recline;
Bring thy offerings to His shrine;
Plead thy Saviour's righteousness;
God will hear, and God will bless.
—H. F. L.

Prayer is an internal work; words are but the garments of prayer; meditation is the body; and affection the soul and life of prayer.—CHARNOCK. Prayer doth not make thee holy; but an holy prayer proceeds from holiness.—A. BURGESS.

We perish, if we cease from prayer;
Oh, grant us power to pray;
And when to meet Thee we prepare,
Lord, meet us by the way.
—J. MONTGOMERY.

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May 30.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.—Isa. xli. 10.

IF thou wouldst not have God to scorn the offer of thy deathbed, give thy soul to Him in thy health.—Bishop Hall.

The Christian's way is always up the hill; he has always to contend with a world which hates him ever, whether the brow darkens in honest malignity, or the face is wreathed with simulated smiles.—W. M. Punshon, D.D.

Love divine, all love excelling
Which a changing world can give,
Make my soul thy favoured dwelling,
Then to God I'll wholly live.
—Thomas Holme.

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May 31.

Receive not the grace of God in vain.—2 COR. vi. 1.

RACE teaches a Christian not only how to act as a man to God, but also like a God to man.—SECKER.

It is a high attainment to prefer the grace of God to earthly honours and emoluments. None but God, the author of grace, can incline the heart to this.—COPE. By the Holy Spirit we are restored into paradise, we regain the kingdom of heaven, we return to the adoption of sons.—ST BASIL.

Clothe me with Thy saving grace,
Mould me to Thy will divine;
In Thy blood my sins efface,
And in service make me Thine,
Lord and Master, make me Thine.
—MRS HOWITT.

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June 1.

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.—LUKE ix. 23.

IN temptation, tribulation, and adversities, we should perish daily except faith went with us to deliver us.—TYNDALE.

The heart is open and rendered soft and susceptible by sorrow, and the dew of Divine grace is enabled to find its way to the latent seeds of Christian virtue.—V. KNOX.

O hearken to the healing voice,
That speaks from heaven in tone so mild;
To-day are life and death our choice,
To-day, through mercy reconciled,
Our all to God we yet may give;
Now let us hear His voice and live.

—R. MONTGOMERY.

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June 2.

Follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.—ROM. xiv. 19.

IVE great enemies inhabit us—avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride. If these enemies were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.—PETRARCH.

He who has the Rose of Sharon in his bosom will not only be blessed by its fragrance, but the holy influence of his life will communicate to others heavenly blessing.—PILKINGTON.

Speak gently, kindly, to the poor,
Let no harsh tone be heard;
They have enough they must endure
Without an unkind word.

—G. W. LANGFORD.

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June 3.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Ps. xlvi. 1.

Since thy Father's arm sustains thee,
Peaceful be;
When a chastening hand restrains thee,
It is He.
Know—His love in full completeness
Fills the measure of thy weakness;
If He wound thy spirit sore,
Trust Him more.
—*From the German.*

Those who have obtained the furthest insight into nature have been in all ages firm believers in God.—Whewell. Where He is the smiter, He must be the healer too; there is no refuge from God's anger but in God's grace.—Bishop Reynolds.

When gathering clouds around I view,
And days are dark, and friends are few,
On Him I lean, who not in vain
Experienced every human pain.
—Sir R. Grant.

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June 4.

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool; for He is holy.—Ps. xcix. 5.

IF the Spirit of God be your teacher, He will teach you such truths as will make you know and love God, and become like to Him, and enjoy Him for ever, by passing from similitudes to union and eternal fruition. —JEREMY TAYLOR.

The temple itself is full of vacant worship, it resounds with rash vows and babbling voices. It is the house of God; but man has made it a den of triflers, a place of vanity, a den of thieves.—DR J. HAMILTON.

Great Lord of the harvest,
Now reigning above;
Oh, gather more sheaves
To the home of Thy love.
—DR MACDUFF.

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June 5.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.—2 Cor. iii. 17.

NONE can love freedom heartily but good men, the rest love not freedom but license. — Coleridge.

In setting free the human soul, the Bible has also liberated nature. Our literature owes far more to this source than it confesses or sees, and if the common mind has awakened to the perception of the tender, the beautiful and sublime in the dewdrops and flowers, in the strength of the everlasting hills, in the calm majesty of the moon walking in brightness—to the sense of the infinite in the great and wide sea and the depths of the open heaven, it owes much of the feeling, and even of the expression to the great Book which has unclosed the spirit's eye.—Ker.

I cannot clear this troubled breast
Of cares which every day molest;
Only I can remember Thine,
O Saviour, and the less repine.
—Lord Kinloch.

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June 6.

Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—1 COR. X. 12.

UNTIL we see ourselves lost, we shall never truly come to Christ for salvation.—ROBERT HALL.

If, as is the case, we feel responsibility, are ashamed, are frightened, at transgressing the voice of conscience, this implies that there is One to whom we are responsible, before whom we are ashamed, whose claims upon us we fear.—NEWMAN.

O guide our doubtful feet aright,
And keep us in Thy ways;
And while we turn our vows to prayers,
Turn Thou our prayers to praise.
—BEDDOME.

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June 7.

He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.—1 JOHN i. 9.

THERE is more joy in the penitential mournings of a believer than in all the mirth of a wicked man. —CRISP. In the world to come there is no place for faith, nor virtue in repentance. —BISHOP PEARSON.

Christ would have us to believe on Him who justifies the ungodly, and therefore He doth not require us to be godly before we believe; He came as a Physician for the sick, and doth not expect they should recover their health in the least degree, before they come to Him.—BOGATSKY.

Jesus, the Friend of human kind,
With strong compassion moved,
Descended like a pitying God,
To save the souls He loved.
—A. L. BARBAULD.

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June 8.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.—Ps. cxlv. 18.

JESUS is a Brother born for adversity; because in the glimmer of the world's eventide, when all the lamps are going out, a glory shines around Him, transforming midnight into day.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Though we should be as holy as any of the apostles, let us beware lest we put our confidence in anything except the sufferings and atoning death of Jesus.—SWARTZ.

What various hindrances we meet
In coming to a mercy-seat;
Yet who that knows the worth of prayer
But wishes to be often there.

—COWPER.

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June 9.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.—ACTS xvi. 31.

JESUS CHRIST came down, and by His humanity stood upon the earth, and by His divinity raised His hands and united Himself with the deity of the everlasting Father. Thus, the fallen affections of man may fasten upon Him, and twine around Him, until they again ascend to the bosom of the Godhead, whence they fell.—WALKER.

Faith is the principal thing in the Christian religion. It is the spiritual eye enlightening the mind, directing the feet, and cheering the heart; the whole turns upon it.—BOGATSKY.

Jesus, my all, to heaven is gone—
He that I placed my hopes upon:
His track I see, and I'll pursue
The narrow way till Him I view.
—JOHN CENNICK.

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June 10.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. —Prov. iii. 5.

TAKE away our hope in God, and history becomes a sea of tumbling billows, dark and shoreless; nations rising only to fall; great souls shooting across the horizon like dying meteors; and all the spiritual belongings of the past written down but to tell us of the vanity of our own efforts.—Ker.

The Gospel is a revelation of Jesus Christ, without which we could never have known that our sins are atoned for by the blood, our persons justified by the righteousness, and our souls everlastingly saved by the work, of Christ.—Bogatsky.

"We've no abiding city here:"
This may distress the worldling's mind,
But should not cause the saint a tear
Who hopes a better rest to find.
—Thomas Kelly.

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June 11.

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.—1 JOHN iv. 15.

CHRIST is the lawgiver of God's world, and before we can obey His laws, we must be on terms of amity with Himself.—KER.

In the beautiful character of the blessed Jesus there was not a more striking feature than a certain sensibility which disposed Him to take part in every one's affliction to which he was a witness, and to be ready to afford it a miraculous relief.—BISHOP HORSLEY.

I lift my heart to Thee,
Saviour Divine;
For Thou art all to me,
And I am Thine.
—CHARLES EDWARD MUDIE.

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June 12.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.—HEB. xii. 14.

A CHRISTIAN, in respect of his faith, is lord over all; in respect of his love, is servant to all.—LUTHER.

If we are like Christ, we shall seek not to absorb, but to reflect the light which falls upon us from heaven upon others; and thus we shall become pure and spotless, for this is the meaning of the "white robe," which the saints wear in glory.—BEECHER.

The poorest friend upholds a part
Of life's harmonious plan;
The weakest hand may have the art
To help the strongest man.

—F. BENNOCH.

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June 13.

Take heed, and beware of covetousness.—LUKE xii. 15.

A WEEK filled up with selfishness, and the Sabbath stuffed full of religious exercises, will make a good Pharisee, but a poor Christian. . . . The whole seven are for religion, and one of them for rest.—BEECHER.

What a man is in private duties, that he is in the sight of God, and no more.—DR OWEN.

Leave behind earth's empty pleasure,
Fleeting hope, and changeful love;
Leave its soon corroding treasure;
There are better things above.
—FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

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June 14.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.—MATT. xi. 29.

THE heavenly Benefactor comes down in presenting loving-kindness upon the earthly pathway of His people. . . . He has said at one place and another: They are to pass this way, I will leave these helps for them, I will smooth down the over-ruggedness of life, so that they shall get through.—RALEIGH.

Toil, trouble, travail, and labour, are words that cannot be spelled in heaven; they have no such things there, for they always rest.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Oh! had I, my Saviour, the wings of a dove,
How soon would I soar to Thy presence above;
How soon would I flee where the weary have rest,
And hide all my cares in Thy sheltering breast.

—HENRY FRANCIS LYTE.

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June 15.

Let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.—GAL. vi. 9.

PERHAPS perseverance has been the radical principle of every truly great character.—JOHN FOSTER.

Laziness never yet had communion with Christ. Those who walk with Christ must walk swiftly. . . . As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, are sluggards to active persons.—C. H. SPURGEON.

The blossom of success men covet so
Grows from the root of effort. Try and trust,
The least may be the greatest. Many a man
Works to the front in life's brief, fussy play,
Or sits astride earth's highest pinnacles,
Whose earliest chapters were least promiseful.

—S. W. PARTRIDGE.

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June 16.

Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead.—ROM. vi. 13.

NONE live so easily, so pleasantly, as those that live by faith.—MATTHEW HENRY. The obstinate have nothing to do with God; the title of all converts is, "A willing people."—BISHOP HALL.

Christians have a much nearer and more important relation to heaven than to earth.—ROBERT HALL.

Enthroned on high, Almighty Lord,
Thy Holy Ghost send down;
Fulfil in us Thy faithful word,
And all Thy mercies crown.
—THOMAS HAWEIS, M.D.

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June 17.

Let them praise Thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.—Ps. xcix. 3.

THE great end of religion is to make us like God, and conduct us to the enjoyment of Him.—F. MASON.

The grace of the Gospel not only redeems the soul from death, and quickens it to newness of life, but brings it into a very near relationship with God, and fits it for the full participation of the eternal glory and blessedness which God has in store for those who fear Him.—BOGATSKY.

Dependent on Thy bounteous breath,
We seek Thy grace alone,
In childhood, manhood, age, and death,
To keep us still Thine own.
—REGINALD HEBER, D.D.

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June 18.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. —2 COR. x. 5.

OH! 'tis good
To wait submissive at Thy holy throne,
To leave petitions at Thy feet, and bear
Thy frowns and silence with a patient soul;
The hand of mercy is not short to save,
Nor is the ear of heavenly pity deaf
To mortal cries.

—WATTS.

Pride is in the front of those sins which God hates, and which are an abomination to Him. Pride is the most pernicious of all vices.—DR BATES.

All things are ours; how abundant the treasure,
All riches which heaven or earth can afford;
O may our thanks, like His grace without measure,
Abound to the glory and praise of our Lord.

—JAMES HOLME.

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June 19.

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.—Ps. xxxvii. 4.

THE Lord of gladness delights in the laughter of a merry heart.—GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D.

Cheerfulness is a Christian duty; moroseness, dulness, gloominess, as false and wrong and cruel as they are unchristian.—J. HAIN FRISWELL.

Sum up at night what thou hast done by day,
And in the morning what thou hast to do;
Dress and undress thy soul, mark the decay
And growth of it; if with thy watch that too
Be down, then wind up both; since we shall be
Most surely judged, make thy account agree.

—HERBERT.

Fountain of mercy, God of love!
How rich Thy bounties are;
The rolling seasons, as they move,
Proclaim Thy constant care.

—MRS ANNE FLOWERDEW.

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June 20.

If thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever.—1 CHRON. xxviii. 9.

AWAY then for ever with the prayer of the formalist; may I learn fervency of devotion from my heavenly Master, who in His agony prayed till drops of blood fell down.—BOGATSKY.

Peace with God implies reconciliation, pardon, adoption, and protection. And how can we be at peace with ourselves, till we have reason to believe that God is at peace with us?—STILLINGFLEET.

To Thee, my God, whose presence fills
The earth, and seas, and skies;
To Thee, whose name, whose heart is love,
With all my powers I rise.

—THOMAS GIBBONS, D.D.

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June 21.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—HEB. xi. 1.

TRUE faith may be called colourless, like air or water. It is but the medium through which the soul sees Christ; and the soul as little rests upon it as the eye can see the air.—NEWMAN.

Whatever else we cannot see, if a simple trust in Jesus is discernible in a convert, we need feel no suspicions, but receive him at once as a brother beloved; for this is the Father's will, that every one that seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Faith bids the soul ascend on high,
And open throws the gates of bliss;
Her restless wings explore the sky,
And waft its tidings back to us.

—WEIR.

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June 22.

Pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.—MATT. vi. 6.

GOD would be alone with the pure, when they are offering their hearts to Him.—FROUDE. Prayer maketh—and the want of it marreth—a saint.—EDWARD IRVING.

Thou shouldst pray alone, for thou hast sinned alone, and thou art to die alone, and to be judged alone.—NEVINS.

Alone with Thee, amid the mystic shadows,
The solemn hush of nature newly born;
Alone with Thee, in breathless adoration,
In the calm dew and freshness of the morn.
—MRS H. B. STOWE.

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June 23.

They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.—DAN. xii. 3.

FROM the lowest depth there is a path to the loftiest height.—CARLYLE.

The fixed stars tremble most. So Christians who are fixed immovably in the unchangeable love of God, are as stars fixed to the heavens in their orbs; yet they are most of all in trepidation and trembling when they reflect upon themselves, and think that instead of being stars in heaven, they might have been firebrands in hell.—BISHOP HOPKINS.

Sow and look onward, upward,
Where the starry lights appear,
Where, in spite of the coward's doubting,
Or your own heart's trembling fears,
You shall reap in joy the harvest
You have sown to-day in tears.
—*Household Words.*

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June 24.

Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.—1 JOHN i. 3.

CHRISTIAN perfection does not consist in doing extraordinary things, but in doing common things after a Christian manner.—ROBERT HALL.

To Him who lived among us, breathed our common air, and spoke our human speech, loved us with a human heart, and healed and helped us with human hands—to Him as God every knee may bow, and every tongue confess.—DR CAIRD.

A Deity believed is joy begun,
A Deity adored is joy advanced,
A Deity beloved is joy matured.
Faith builds a bridge from this world to the next
O'er death's dark gulf, and all its horror hides.

—E. YOUNG.

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June 25.

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.—ISA. lx. 20.

HOW should we rejoice in the prospect, the certainty rather, of spending a blissful eternity with those whom we loved on earth.—ROBERT HALL.

A Christian in this world is but gold in the ore; at death the pure gold is melted out and separated, and the dross cast away and consumed.—FLAVEL. The triumphant Christian shall be clothed in white; he shall be invested with the spotless robes of the merits of his Redeemer.—J. W. CUNNINGHAM.

I long to be with Jesus,
Amid the heavenly throng,
To sing with saints His praises,
To learn the angels' song.
—DR H. BONAR.

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June 26.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. —2 TIM. iii. 16.

WITHIN this awful volume lies,
The mystery of mysteries;
Happiest they of human race,
To whom their God has given grace
To fear, to read, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, to force the way;
And better had they ne'er been born,
Who read to doubt, or read to scorn.
—SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Whatsoever is necessary to our salvation is treasured in the Holy Scriptures. He that is ignorant will find therein right knowledge.—CHRYSOSTOM.

Read not this book in any case,
But with a single eye;
Read not, but first desire God's grace
To understand thereby.
—T. JORDAN, 1616.

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June 27.

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.—JOB v. 17.

THERE is no unnecessary affliction. . . . God shall not even waste the contents of the bitter cup.—JOHN MACFARLANE, LL.D.

Affliction reveals our helplessness, and bids us prepare for death. Bereavement, while it is burying the spirit, is opening up an entrance for the true consolation, and leading the soul to look forward to reunion with our kindred fallen asleep in Christ. —JOHN EADIE, D.D.

Lord, whose love, in power excelling,
Washed the leper's stain away;
Jesus, from Thy heavenly dwelling,
Hear us, help us, when we pray.
—REGINALD HEBER, D.D.

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June 28.

With thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—PHIL. iv. 6.

UR thanksgiving should not be an exercise of devotion practised now and then; it should be incessant, the voice of a love which is ever living, and put in our hearts.—F. W. FABER.

A thankful heart to God for His blessings is the greatest blessing of all.—SIBBS. To be thankful to God is not to say, "God be praised," or "God be thanked;" but to remember what He desires, and execute what He commands.—CHILLINGWORTH.

Give me a calm, a thankful heart,
From every murmur free;
The blessings of Thy grace impart,
And let me live to Thee.

—HERBERT.

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June 29.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. —Ps. xix. 14.

LET us all cultivate the peculiar grace which shone in the Lord's mother: "Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."—Dr C. J. Vaughan.

What more blessed and delightful meditations can I daily dwell upon than to think thus: God has loved me, even me, when I was His enemy, and so loved me that He gave me His only Son.—Bogatsky.

And so increase our love for Thee,
That all our future days
May one continual Sabbath be
Of gratitude and praise.

—Oke.

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June 30.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.—JOHN xiv. 6.

IT is impossible to exaggerate the certainty and freeness of that salvation that is in Christ for all who will but lay hold of it. It is impossible that anything in the universe can lie between you and eternal life, if you but accept it as "the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord."—DR CAIRD.

It is the religion of Jesus alone that can give peace to man: it unites him with his Saviour, it subdues his passions, it controls his desires, it consoles him with the love of Christ, it gives him joy even in sorrow; and this is a joy that cannot be taken away.—FENELON.

I am the way, the truth, the life;
No son of human race,
But such as I conduct and guide,
Shall see my Father's face.
—*Scottish Paraphrase.*

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July 1.

If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness.—GAL. vi. 1.

NOTHING is more odious than that 'insensibility which wraps a man up in himself and his own concerns, and prevents his being moved with either the joys or the sorrows of another.—BEATTIE.

A living union with Jesus, cemented and sealed by His Holy Spirit, is the only bond of union and agreement between Christians.—BOGATSKY. If we refuse mercy here, we must have justice to eternity.—LE BAS.

O Lord—in sickness and in health,
To every lot resigned;
Grant me, before all worldly wealth,
A meek and thankful mind.

—W. L. BOWLES.

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July 2.

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. —Ps. xcv. 6.

HRISTIANITY has no ceremonial. It has forms, for forms are essential to order; but it disdains the folly of attempting to reinforce the religion of the heart by the antics of the mind.—CROLY.

The sensuous are like Jacob lying on the hard ground, dreamily looking at the ladder between heaven and earth, as a beauteous vision; the spiritual are like the angels of God, which ascend and descend upon it.—MORRIS.

Teach us, Almighty God, this day
Thy mercies to proclaim;
Teach us with heart and lip to pray,
"All hallowed be Thy name."
—DR CROLY.

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July 3.

Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.—JAMES i. 22.

LET no man allow himself to neglect the hearing of the Word, or hear it in a careless and irreverent manner, under the pretence of his having an opportunity of reading it in private.—ROBERT HALL.

If you love Jesus, let the work of your spiritual life be, through the aid of God's written Word and enlightening and sanctifying Spirit, and by a holy walk, to know Him better, and to love Him more, until you are daily "changed unto the same image from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord."—DR N. MACLEOD.

Spirit Divine, attend our prayers,
And make this house Thy home;
Descend with all Thy gracious powers:
O come, Great Spirit, come!
—ANDREW REED, D.D.

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July 4.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. —1 COR. xiii. 1.

ACRIFICE your hatred, your animosities, and your vengeance, on the altar of gratitude. Let the blood of Jesus, which implores pardon for you in heaven, obtain it from you for your brethren here upon earth.—VALPY.

Give me grace meekly to overlook an injury, silently to suffer a wrong, generously to forgive and forget the unkindness done, the sorrow inflicted, the debt incurred by my fellow-servant, even as Thou hast forgiven and forgotten my transgressions, cancelling all my sins, and remitting all my debts against Thee.—DR WINSLOW.

Speak gently; 'tis a little thing,
Dropped in the heart's deep well;
The good, the joy which it may bring,
Eternity shall tell.

—G. W. LANGFORD.

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July 5.

He giveth His beloved sleep.—Ps. cxxvii. 2.

RELIGIOUS peace is a repose pure and serene as the unruffled wave, which reflects the heavens from its bosom, while it is accompanied with a feeling of exultation and triumph.—ROBERT HALL.

Ours is a religion jealous in its demands, but how infinitely prodigal in its gifts! It troubles you for an hour, it repays you by immortality.—LORD LYTTON.

O may my prayers before Thy throne arise
An humble but accepted sacrifice!
And when Thou shalt my weary eyelids close,
And to my body grant a sweet repose,
May my ethereal guardian kindly spread
His wings, and from the tempter shield my head!
May of Thy heavenly light some piercing beams
Illume my sleep, and sanctify my dreams.
—WATTS.

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July 6.

The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.—PROV. xix. 23.

A BELIEVER, through a strong and sudden temptation, may be captivated by sin, but he is no willing captive; he hates sin, and prays and watches against it; and as faith increases, his power over sin increases too, and the image of God waxes brighter in his heart.—BOGATSKY.

Defend me, O Lord, in this my pilgrimage against the enemies of my soul, and arm me with the armour of light against the lusts of the flesh, the temptations of the world, and the malice of the devil.—BISHOP ANDREWS.

If life be heavy on your hands,
  Are there no beggars at your gate,
Nor any poor about your lands?
  Oh, teach the orphan boy to read,
Or teach the orphan girl to sew;
  Pray Heaven for a human heart,
And let your sinful sorrow go.
—TENNYSON.

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July 7.

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.—MATT. vi. 20.

AS God can never lie, there is not one single groan lost, but every one will be found to be a jewel in the life to come, by which thy riches are increased, and one treasure put to another. —BOGATSKY.

The more dead we are to the delights of sense, the better prepared are we for the pleasures of heaven.—M. HENRY. Put not your trust in money, but put your money in trust.—HOLMES.

I love to meditate on bliss to come,
Not that I am unhappy here; but that
The hope of higher bliss may rectify
The lower feeling which we now enjoy.
—BAILEY.

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July 8.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?—Ps. xxvii. 1.

A SENSE of God's presence in love is sufficient to rebuke all anxiety and fear in the worst and most dreadful condition.—J. Owen.

Do not say your influence is confined to a narrow sphere. Yon little taper is not a sun, yet observe how bright it shines, how far it spreads its rays in the dark night! Hide not then your light, whatever it be, under a bushel, nor keep your talent, because it is a single one, wrapped up in a napkin.—E. Ward.

Indulgent God! oh, how shall mortal raise
His soul to the returns of grateful praise,
For bounty so profuse to human kind:
The wondrous gift of an eternal mind.
—Young.

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July 9.

All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.—MATT. xxi. 22.

LET faith but climb the tree of prayer
And wait, the Lord will surely pass that way.
—MASSEY.

Christ Jesus is the priest that offereth, and the altar which sanctifieth all our services. And Christ will not be their Advocate in heaven, who refuse to have Him their King on earth.—BISHOP REYNOLDS.

Prayer makes the darkened cloud withdraw;
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;
Gives exercise to faith and love;
Brings every blessing from above.
—WILLIAM COWPER.

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July 10.

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him.—NAHUM i. 7.

I CAN rest my head and heart in the lap of God's providence, and upon the bosom of Jesus Christ our Lord, with a perfect assurance that neither man nor devil can touch me there. —GOTTHOLD.

If you tell your troubles to God, you put them into the grave; they will never rise again when you have committed them to Him.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Yes, God is good: in earth and sky,
From ocean depths and spreading wood,
Ten thousand voices seem to cry,
"God made us all, and God is good."
—JOHN HAMPDEN GURNEY.

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July 11.

To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.—ROM. ii. 7.

HRISTIANS must labour before they rest.—ROBERT HALL. Patience is the guardian of faith, the preserver of peace, the cherisher of love, the teacher of humility.—BISHOP HORNE.

Shrink not from labour, nay, not even toil;
There's nothing greater in God's world
than work:
He is no man who works not.
—S. W. PARTRIDGE.

He who for man in mercy stood,
And poured on earth His precious blood,
Pursues in heaven His plan of grace,
The guardian God of human race.
—MICHAEL BRUCE.

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July 12.

By their fruits ye shall know them.—MATT. vii. 20.

THE best assurance that any one can have of his interest in God is, doubtless, the conformity of his will to God.—CUDWORTH.

Look well to it, that the lamp of your Christian hope is constantly trimmed, and brightly burning. The golden oil that feeds the lamp is drawn from Jesus Christ, and the hand that trims the flame is faith. —OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, D.D.

Trust no party, Church, or faction;
Trust no leaders in the fight;
But in every word and action,
"Trust in God, and do the right."
—NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D.

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July 13.

There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.—1 Tim. ii. 5.

Infinite wisdom, power, and grace,
In our Redeemer shine;
O let me, by a lively faith,
Make these perfections mine.
—James Grant.

It is manly to be religious, for it is our religion, our Christian faith which brings us into fellowship with Him, who is the One Man of all time, the perfect ideal of humanity.—Dr Caird.

Eternal Spirit! Mighty God!
Do Thou apply the Saviour's blood!
'Tis His rich blood, and His alone,
Can move and melt this heart of stone.
—Hart.

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July 14.

Prove all things: hold fast that which is good.—1 THESS. v. 21.

CHRISTIANITY is not a theory or a speculation, but a life. Not a philosophy of life, but a life and a living process. This alone is essential in Christianity, that the same spirit should be growing in us, which was in the fulness of perfection in Christ Jesus. —S. T. COLERIDGE.

If God be our friend, no matter who is our enemy.—M. HENRY.

If nothing more than purpose in thy power,
Thy purpose firm is equal to the deed;
Who does the best his circumstance allows,
Does well, acts nobly; angels could do no more.

—YOUNG.

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July 15.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.—PROV. iii. 6.

IF God be the fountain of all our mercies, He must be the centre of all our joys.—M. HENRY.

All disquiet of mind ariseth from our own lusts and unmortified tempers, which make the bosom like a troubled sea, and no settled calm shall we find, till we have a single eye to God's glory, and can count ourselves worthy of no good.—BOGATSKY.

Subdued and instructed, I bow to Thy will,
My hopes and my longings to Thee I resign;
O give me the heart that can wait and be still,
Nor know of a wish and a pleasure but Thine.

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July 16.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!—Ps. cvii. 8.

THERE is not a more pleasing exercise of the mind than gratitude. It is accompanied with such an inward satisfaction, that the duty is sufficiently rewarded by the performance. —ADDISON.

Thanksgiving is good, but thanks-living is better.—M. HENRY. He who prays as he ought will endeavour to live as he prays. —OWEN.

O God of Jacob! by whose hand
Thine Israel still is fed;
Who through this weary pilgrimage
Hath all our fathers led.

—PHILIP DODDRIDGE, D.D.

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July 17.

All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.—EXOD. xxiv. 7.

A MAN sincerely obedient lays such a charge upon his whole man, as Mary the mother of Christ did upon all the servants at the feast: "Whatsoever the Lord saith unto you, do it."—BROOKS.

All the great duties of a Christian life are no more incumbent upon Christians than upon other men; for men are bound to be and to do right on the religious scale of rectitude, not because they are Christians, but because they are men.—BEECHER.

Far from Thy servants, God of grace,
The unfeeling heart remove:
And form in our obedient souls
The image of Thy love.
—PHILIP DODDRIDGE, D.D.

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July 18.

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! who hast set Thy glory above the heavens.—Ps. viii. 1.

IT seems to me to make the world so magnificent, to light it up with such a lustre and such a splendour, to think that God is in it.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Pray always; pray without ceasing. . . . Swifter than by the subtle electric agent is thought borne from earth to heaven. The Great Spirit on high is in constant sympathy with the believing spirit beneath, and in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the thrill of aspiration flashes from the heart of man to God.—DR CAIRD.

By the blue sky bending o'er us,
By the green earth's flowery zone,
Teach us, Lord, the angel-chorus:
"Thou art Love, and Love alone."
—F. W. FARRAR.

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July 19.

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.—2 COR. vi. 2.

THE time *will* come when it will not be an acceptable time with God. The day of mercy will be closed; the period of trial will be ended. —BARNES.

Delay not, even for an hour, the great work of your reconciliation with God. He is now waiting to be gracious—now ready to have mercy—now pleased to be propitiated—now prepared to pardon; but how soon may the shadows of a hopeless, endless night close the day of salvation.—DEAN DALE.

Now God invites—how blest the day,
How sweet the Gospel's charming sound!
Come, sinners, haste, oh! haste away,
While yet a pardoning God is found.
—DWIGHT.

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July 20.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.—HEB. iv. 14.

DUTY can never live long separate from truth, Christian service from Christ. There must be oil in the lamp if it is to burn. It is watching unto prayer that brings in this Divine life, that quickens the powers, and makes them rise up for new and higher work.—KER.

Behold the condition and attitude of Christians. They float in the same sea of life with other men, and bear the same buffetings; but they are not driven hither and thither, the sport of wind and water. . . . Their life, "hid with Christ in God," bears without breaking all the strain of the storm.—DR ARNOT.

Now let our cheerful eyes survey
Our Great High Priest above,
And celebrate His constant care,
His sympathy, and love.
—PHILIP DODDRIDGE, D.D.

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July 21.

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—1 COR. x. 12.

OVE is the best watcher—love will keep the heart awake, and the light burning for the Lord. —DR N. MACLEOD.

May the Lord make us watchful against our own spirit, and against the evil one, especially when he is transformed into an angel of light, that it may not be in his power to sift us, so as to gain an advantage over us by our listening to his inward suggestions, or yielding to his subtle temptations.—BOGATSKY.

God of my life, to Thee I call,
Afflicted at Thy feet I fall;
When the great water floods prevail,
Leave not my trembling heart to fail.
—COWPER.

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July 22.

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.—Ps. cxlvi. 5.

HOPE in God is the best principle of true courage.—M. HENRY. No Christian ought to rest satisfied with a doubtful hope.—DR GARDINER SPRING. Hopeless and lifeless go together.—*Anon.*

My soul, let never morning rise, that doth not find thee on thy bended knees; let never evening close without the duteous tribute of prayer and praise to Him who maketh the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.—HAWEIS.

Thou, Lord, hast said: "The blood of goat,
The flesh of rams, I will not prize;
A contrite heart, a lowly thought,
Are mine accepted sacrifice."

—SIR W. SCOTT.

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July 23.

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—PROV. xviii. 24.

UNLESS we see something of the love of Christ to us, we cannot love Him. It is the law of our nature that love kindles love.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

To Him belongs every attraction that wins our admiration, every perfection that awakens our love, every quality that fits Him to discharge the high and peculiar duties and obligations of a brother.—OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, D.D.

Friend of the friendless and the faint,
Where should I lodge my deep complaint,
Where, but with Thee, whose open door
Invites the helpless and the poor?
Did ever mourner plead with Thee,
And Thou refuse that mourner's plea?
Does not that word still fixed remain,
That "none shall seek Thy face in vain."
—COWPER.

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July 24.

In your patience possess ye your souls.—LUKE xxi. 19.

O BLESSED Jesus, give me patiently to bear my cross without being faint or weary; and meekness to bear with persecutors; and charity to pray for and bless them.—KETTLEWELL.

No injuries can be so great in one man to another as those affronts are which men put upon God by their continual provocations of Him. And if God then be of so infinite patience to forbear with such as have offended Him, what justice and reason is there not that men should express more lenity and patience towards each other!—STILLINGFLEET.

O Thou, whose sacred feet have trod
The thorny path of woe,
Forbid that I should slight the rod,
Or faint beneath the blow.

—J. D. BURNS.

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July 25.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.—PHIL. iii. 14.

THE salvation which the Gospel offers is not the prize of a lofty intellect, but of a lowly heart.—DR CAIRD.

To keep on good terms with the world, and at the same time not to "break" with the Lord Jesus Christ, is the absurd and abortive endeavour of too many who profess and call themselves Christians. Bunyan describes this style of character in "Mr Facing-both-ways." . . . This wretched attempt at compromise and conformity only provokes the contempt of the world's people and the holy indignation of God.—CUYLER.

We sing the praise of Him who died,
Of Him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but loss.
—THOMAS KELLY.

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July 26.

The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.—JAMES iii. 17.

HOLINESS consists in becoming a true man, in becoming more and more like the likeness of Jesus Christ.—C. KINGSLEY.

The love of the strong for the weak, of the saint for the sinner, of the pure for the stained, of the delivered for the tempted, nay, even in nature, of the father in his might for the infant in his weakness—all these are earthly images of the heavenly love wherewith, as God, the everlasting Father hath loved us.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
And press with vigour on:
A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.

—DR DODDRIDGE.

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July 27.

Use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.—1 COR. vii. 31.

OUR felicity in another life must be owing to the preparations we make for it here. And what we must be to all eternity will be the consequence of what we have been in this world. —SEED.

When a man is learning to be a Christian, it matters not what his particular work in life may be; the work he does is but the copy-line set to him; the main thing to be considered is that he learn to live well.—DR CAIRD.

O happy day, that fixed my choice
On Thee my Saviour, and my God;
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad.
—DR DODDRIDGE.

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July 28.

According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.—TITUS iii. 5, 6.

E can never know what a sin is until we see it in the light of the love of Christ.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

The Gospel is a true Bethesda, a pool of grace, when such poor lame and infirm persons as we are, upon the moving of God's Spirit in it, may descend down, not only to wash our skins and outside, but also to be cured of our diseases within.—CUDWORTH.

Holy Spirit, from on high
Bend on us a pitying eye;
Animate the drooping heart;
Bid the power of sin depart.
—W. H. BATHURST.

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July 29.

I will wash mine hands in innocency; so will I compass Thine altar, O Lord.—Ps. xxvi. 6.

IN proportion as we exalt ordinances as intrinsically efficacious, we degrade the Lord himself, and weaken the life of our souls, until it may be that they are made everything, and He is made nothing, and then the life disappears, and only a dead, dry fossil remains.—W. M. TAYLOR, D.D.

Faith in Christ, *plus* no rites and ceremonies whatever, no ritual or ritualism, is needed for our salvation, if the words of Christ are to be believed.—T. B. GREEN.

Easy, indeed, it were to reach
A mansion in the courts above,
If swelling words and fluent speech
Might serve instead of faith and love.
But none shall gain the blissful place,
Or God's unclouded glory see,
Who talks of free and sovereign grace,
Unless that grace has made him free.
—COWPER.

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July 30.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? —1 JOHN v. 5.

THE noblest desire which one man can cherish for another is that he may be like Jesus.—JOSEPH PARKER, D.D.

The refiner and purifier is Jesus. . . . Then, O my soul, tremble not at the knife that wounds thee, at the flame that scorches thee, at the cloud that shades thee, at the billows that surge above thee. —OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, D.D.

Jesus my Saviour, and my God,
My life, and sacrifice;
My hopes, deep founded in Thy blood,
Reach far above the skies.

—SIMON BROWNE.

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July 31.

Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.—2 TIM. ii. 19.

LORD, who art the way, the light, the truth, the life; in whom there is no darkness, error, vanity, or death; the light without which there is darkness, the way without which there is wandering, the truth without which there is nought but error, the life without which there is death.—AUGUSTINE.

It is more to the honour of a Christian soldier by faith to overcome the world than by a monastical vow to retreat from it; and more for the honour of Christ to serve Him in a city than to serve Him in a cell.—M. HENRY.

Light up the bleeding hand, O Lord,
Unseal that cleansing tide;
We have no shelter from our sin,
But in Thy wounded side.
—MRS ALEXANDER.

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August 1.

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? —ROM. viii. 32.

HRISTIAN hope is the sunshine of the breast, and can make a Goshen there, when all around is dark. It is the comfort of sorrow, the strength of sickness, and only brightens as death draws near.—BISHOP J. JACKSON.

They that think they may come to justification by performance of the law, by their own deeds and merits, or by any other means than as they proceed from a heart endued with pure faith and love to God, they go from Christ; they renounce His grace.—ARCHBISHOP CRANMER.

Grace! 'tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to mine ear;
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear.

—DR DODDRIDGE.

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August 2.

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord.—PROV. xiv. 2.

'TWOULD be well for us
Were but our lives as good as our best thoughts,
Our daily deeds and hourly habits raised
Up to the level of our high resolves.
—S. W. PARTRIDGE.

Watch over thy passions, conduct, and conversation, so as that the Spirit of the Lord be not grieved, nor His comfortable influences withdrawn from thy soul.—BOGATSKY.

The dearest idol I have known,
What'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee.
So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.
—COWPER.

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August 3.

He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me.—MATT. x. 37.

WOULD you escape the corrosions of domestic affliction, beware of concentrating your affections within too confined a circle of beloved objects; lest, like Micah, when deprived of his images of worship, you be constrained to cry, "Ye have taken away my gods."—ROBERT HALL.

When Satan and thy flesh would hide God's love, look to Christ, and read the golden words of love in the sacred Gospel. —BAXTER.

Though we often have offended
And transgressed His holy will,
Still has He our souls befriended;
We may call Him Father still.
—JOHN BURTON, JUN.

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August 4.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.—2 COR. v. 17.

I SEE now, O blessed Jesus, I see where Thou art; even far above all heavens, at the right hand of Thy Father's glory. Oh, do Thou raise up my heart thither to Thee! Place Thou my affections upon Thee above; and teach me therefore to love heaven, because Thou art there.—BISHOP HALL.

The blood of Jesus alone can make us clean. We can never make ourselves better. We must come to Jesus to make us better, and till then nothing is done.—NEWMAN HALL.

O may the heavenly prospect fire
  Our hearts with ardent love,
Till wings of faith and strong desire
  Bear every thought above.
Prepare us, Lord, by grace divine,
  For Thy bright courts on high;
Then bid our spirits rise and join
  The chorus of the sky.

—ANNE STEELE.

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August 5.

Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.—Ps. xxxvii. 27.

THEY that walk in a holy sincerity may walk in a holy security.—M. HENRY. By the very constitution of our nature moral evil is its own curse.—CHALMERS.

When the softening principle of divine love and grace begins to thaw the icy coldness of a godless heart, then it is that the soul becomes aware of the deadly strength of sin.—DR CAIRD.

O happy saints, who dwell in light,
And walk with Jesus, clothed in white!
Safe landed on that peaceful shore,
Where pilgrims meet to part no more.
—JOHN BERRIDGE.

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August 6.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. —Col. iii. 4.

HRIST'S service is the only liberty; all without this is serfdom.—S. W. Partridge. Grace makes the slave a freeman.—Cowper.

The lamp of a believer, as the midnight hour approaches, ought to burn more brightly; he should daily lose something of what is base and earthly in his nature as he draws nearer to that region of holy spirits, into which nothing that defileth can enter.—J. N. Pearson.

Awake, ye saints, and raise your eyes,
And lift your voices high;
Awake, and praise that sovereign love
That shows salvation nigh.

—Dr Doddridge.

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August 7.

The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him.—EZRA viii. 22.

GOD'S presence with a man in his house, though it be but a cottage, makes it both a castle and a palace.—M. HENRY.

He that keeps his eye always fixed upon God as the supreme, the sole worthy object of his thoughts and desires—that man meditates upon Him, and delights in Him; that man is fed and nourished by Him.—ST AUGUSTINE.

God of my life, through all its days
My grateful powers shall sound Thy praise;
The song shall wake with opening light,
And warble to the silent night.
—DR DODDRIDGE.

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August 8.

Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.—Ps. xcv. 8.

ALL sin, and especially the love of the world and love of self, must be expelled from the heart before the love of God can dwell there.—Bishop J. Jackson.

One may attend the ordinances of religion, have a regard to outward decency, may have a name to live while dead, be high in profession, and at the same time a stranger to the power of godliness.—Bogatsky.

Humble we must be, if to heaven we go,
High is the roof there, but the gate is low;
Whene'er thou speakest, look with a lowly eye,
Grace is increased by humility.
—Herrick.

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August 9.

Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.—1 COR. xv. 58.

LET us strengthen our minds, let us brace up our soul, let us prepare our heart. The race is for life, the hope is for everlasting things.—ST CYRIL.

O God, "give us a heart to love and dread Thee, and diligently to live after Thy commandments, that we may hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life."—*Litany, Common Prayer.*

When the world is brightest,
And our hearts are lightest,
Blessed Jesu, hear us,
Let Thy hand be near us.
—REV. LAURENCE TUTTIETT.

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August 10.

I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. —ROM. xii. 3.

TRUE humility is a necessary part, nay, the very threshold and entrance of real Christianity.—BISHOP J. JACKSON. If we would disrobe ourselves of the worthless garment of pride, let us view the character of God, and compare it with our own.—DR E. WILLIAMS.

None can conclude that Christ died for him, who finds not himself set against the life of sin within him.—BISHOP REYNOLDS.

O blessed Father, righteous Lord,
Within Thy Book of Life record
My undeserving name;
Teach me to know and do Thy will,
My heart with holy longings fill,
And heavenly love inflame.

—BAYLEY.

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August 11.

Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day. —1 KINGS viii. 61.

THIS is the only perfection of man, to know himself imperfect.—ST JEROME.

Peace with God implies reconciliation, pardon, adoption, and protection. And how can we be at peace with ourselves, till we have reason to believe that God is at peace with us.—STILLINGFLEET.

Beset with snares on every hand,
In life's uncertain path I stand;
Saviour Divine, diffuse Thy light
To guide my doubtful footsteps right.
—DR DODDRIDGE.

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August 12.

The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.—2 THESS. iii. 5.

MY God! make me like Thine own self, all meekness and benignity, all goodness and sweetness, all gentleness and long-suffering.—BISHOP KEN.

If it be best for me to suffer, why should I not be cheerful in suffering? O Father of mercies! since it is Thou that strikest me, I know Thou canst have no other thoughts but of love and compassion to my soul.—BISHOP HALL.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
—H. F. LYTE.

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August 13.

A faithful man shall abound with blessings.—PROV. xxviii. 20.

FAITH comes by hearing, and works by hearkening, that is obeying.—M. HENRY.

Of Christ's kingdom there is no end. We shall reap, if we faint not. Our combat is short, our victory sure, our crown is safe, our triumph is eternal. His grace is all-sufficient here to help us, and His glory is all-sufficient to reward us.—BISHOP REYNOLDS.

Shepherd of Israel, Thou dost guide,
When heart and flesh alike complain,
Where living waters sweetly glide
To freshen thirsty souls again;
Thou art the Rock, O Lord! from Thee
Spring living waters lastingly.

—PAXTON HOOD.

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August 14.

He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things.—DEUT. X. 21.

SET God in thy heart, for if thou love God, thou wilt give Him thy heart.—ARCHIBALD NICHOLSON. The heart must be made a temple to God. —LEIGHTON.

God, who gave us to aspire to holiness and spirituality and to likeness to Himself, never implanted those aspirations in us out of mockery. He means to gratify these holy longings, or else He would not have excited them.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Let me, Thou Sov'reign Lord of all,
Low at Thy footstool humbly fall;
And while I feel affliction's rod,
"Be still and know that Thou art God."
—SAMUEL MEDLEY.

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August 15.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.—PROV. iii. 3.

A LIE should be trampled on and extinguished wherever found. I am for fumigating the atmosphere when I suspect that falsehood, like pestilence, breathes around me.—CARLYLE.

It is with the thoughts Satan is most busy. . . . By accompanying and poisoning them, he prepares the way for more open sins, undermines resolutions and principles, weakens the force of better habits, inflames the passions, and gradually familiarises men to evil.—BISHOP J. JACKSON.

Depth of mercy! can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear?
Me, the chief of sinners, spare.
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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August 16.

Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.—1 PET. iii. 18.

BETWEEN sinful men and a holy God is an impassable gulf. Who can build a bridge over the dark abyss? The Lord Jesus Christ alone. He himself becomes a viaduct.—NEWMAN HALL.

I will call upon Christ, the Light of the world, the Fountain of life, the relief of all careful consciences, the Peacemaker between God and man, and the only health and comfort of all true repentant sinners. I have no hope or confidence in any creature, neither in heaven nor earth: but in Christ, my whole and only Saviour.—CATHERINE PARR.

Hark, how all the welkin rings,
"Glory to the King of kings!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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August 17.

Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.—1 PET. iii. 8.

THERE'S no such way of lightening thine own load,
As helping thy poor brother: neighbour help
Is truest self-help.

—S. W. PARTRIDGE.

Above all things have fervent love one to another, for love will make you pardon a multitude of faults in each other, whereby, in your present persecuted state, ye will be the more disposed to assist each other.—MACKNIGHT.

Charity never faileth! O thought beyond compare,
That He whose very name is Love, is with us everywhere;
That, though the troubled waves of life around us toss and foam,
With Jesus in the vessel, we are safely steering home.

—M. F. TUPPER.

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August 18.

Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.—1 COR. vi. 20.

WHERE the law ends Christ begins. The law ends with representative sacrifices, Christ begins with real offering; the law is our schoolmaster to lead us unto Christ; it cannot save us, but it leaves us at His door, where alone salvation is to be found.—BOGATSKY.

No perfume can be so sweet as the holy obedience of the faithful.—BISHOP HALL.

O that my ways were made so strait,
And that the lamp of faith
Would as a star direct my feet
To find the narrow path.
—AUGUSTUS MONTAGUE TOPLADY.

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August 19.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.—JOHN xiv. 21.

ET us endeavour to promote the Gospel of peace, the dove-like Gospel, with a dove-like spirit.—CUDWORTH. Wicked men obey for fear, but the good for love.—ARISTOTLE. I would rather obey than work miracles.—LUTHER.

All faith is pleasing, but the faith "that sweetly works by love" is the truest and highest faith, because it is guided by an instinct that is Divine as well as human.—THOMAS BOWDEN GREEN.

A Friend there is—your voices join,
Ye saints, to praise His name,
Whose truth and kindness are Divine,
Whose love's a constant flame.
—JOSEPH SWAIN.

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August 20.

Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.—ROM. xii. 2.

IF a man quits Christian ordinances and friends for the sake of extending Gospel truth, let him be sure it is for this end, and not with the covert object of gaining some worldly advantage.—KER.

Health is a great blessing—competence obtained by honourable industry a great blessing—and a great blessing it is to have kind, faithful, and loving friends and relations; but the greatest of all blessings, as it is the most ennobling of all privileges, is to be indeed a Christian.—COLERIDGE.

Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
Breathe upon us from above,
And with sweet celestial fire
Zeal inflame, and love inspire.
—JOSEPH IRONS.

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August 21.

A soft answer turneth away wrath.—PROV. XV. 1.

WE should not think it enough, not to begin strife and contention; but if others begin it, we should not continue it by rough answers, but endeavour to make an end of it presently by mollifying the matter, and yield much for the common tranquillity's sake.—BISHOP PATRICK.

All religion is the spirit of love, and its gifts and graces are the gifts and graces of love. It has no breath, no life, but the life of love.—W. LAW.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, and child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

—PIERPONT.

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August 22.

He which hath begun a good work in you, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. —PHIL. i. 6.

BLESS me with faith in Christ, then Christ is mine, and all things are mine.—BOGATSKY.

Live, and pray, and hope, and wait patiently; and do not despond: the promise stands inviolable that He "will never leave us, nor forsake us."—DR J. OWEN.

Wilt Thou my footsteps guide
To where Thy sheep beside
The living streams abide?
I come, I come, with shame and grief opprest,
Thy feet embrace, and shelter in Thy breast.

—PEARSON.

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August 23.

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?—MIC. vi. 8.

THE free love of God humbles that heart most to which it is most manifested. And towards men humility graces all graces and all gifts; it glorifies God, and teaches others so to do. It is the preserver of graces.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

The God of heaven lift up the light of His countenance upon you, and thereby put gladness in your heart, and give you to apprehend Him saying to you, "Arise, and walk in the light of the Lord."—J. HOWE.

Behold, what wondrous grace
The Father hath bestowed
On sinners of a mortal race,
To call them sons of God.
—DR WATTS.

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August 24.

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.—ECCLES. xi. 1.

GOD'S children, when they upon the bended knees of their souls dart out their prayers, eye them up into heaven, observe how God entertains them, and wait for a happy return at His good will and pleasure.—WILKINSON.

If the wilderness table contains such rich provision, what must be the glories of the eternal banqueting hour!—DR MACDUFF.

Life is the time to serve the Lord,
The time t' ensure the great reward;
And while the lamp holds on to burn,
The vilest sinner may return.

—DR WATTS.

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August 25.

Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.—PROV. iii. 9, 10.

LABOUR always to learn to die, defy the world, deny the devil, and despise the flesh, and delight yourself only in the Lord.—JANE GREY.

Are you ready to regard all you have—rank, name, talents, riches, influence, distinction, valuables—only so far as they contribute to promote the glory of Him who is "first and last, and all in all."—DR MACDUFF.

Glory be to God on high!
God, whose glory fills the sky;
Peace on earth to man forgiven;
Man the well-beloved of heaven.
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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August 26.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.—PHIL. i. 21.

IF we would die as Christians, we must live as Christians. If to die is to be gain, to live must be Christ.—BISHOP J. JACKSON. The Christian is fed by His hands, carried in His heart, supported by His arm, nursed in His bosom, guided by His eye, instructed by His lips, warmed by His love.—BALFERN.

Death has enough to do with itself. It is a time not to seek, but to enjoy the comforts of religion.—DR GUTHRIE.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee.
—WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

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August 27.

The end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.—1 TIM. i. v.

IT is not possible that any man can truly believe that God hath forgiven him his sins, when he himself is not willing to forgive his brother. For if we have causes why we will not forgive our neighbour, then surely God hath more and more weighty causes wherefore He will not forgive us.—ARCHBISHOP CRANMER.

As one gleam of sunshine may illumine an entire village, so one kind word may cheer a whole household, and one smile gladden a whole heart.—T. B. GREEN.

Jesus my Shepherd is,
'Twas He that loved my soul,
'Twas He that washed me in His blood,
'Twas He that made me whole.
—REV. HORATIUS BONAR.

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August 28.

Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.—HEB. x. 24.

DOING justly is the first step to loving mercy, and the men in the Bible who lived nearest to God were most marked by the nobility of soul that seeks to owe no man anything but love.—KER.

Oh, sweetest Saviour! clothe my soul with Thy holy robe, hide my sins in Thy wounds, and bury them in Thy grave; and let me rise in the life of grace, and abide and grow in it, till I arrive at the kingdom of glory.—BISHOP J. TAYLOR.

God of my health, whose tender care
First gave me power to move,
How shall my thankful heart declare
The wonders of Thy love?
—JAMES MERRICK.

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August 29.

Exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.—HEB. iii. 13.

EARTHLY friendship is one of the flowers of heaven—an exotic growing in the crevices of man's rocky heart; it will be nurtured (surely not extirpated) in its native clime.—DR MACDUFF.

Love is our highest, holiest happiness, even here where its pure flame is clogged with the dross of our corruption, and dimmed by the chill atmosphere of the world, but when it is removed to more congenial realms, where sin is not, and corruption is purged away, oh! it will be bliss to love.—BISHOP JACKSON.

Blest is the man, whose softening heart
  Feels all another's pain;
To whom the supplicating eye
  Was never raised in vain.

. . . . . .

To gentle offices of love,
  His feet are never slow;
He views through mercy's melting eye,
  A brother in a foe.

—MRS BARBAULD.

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August 30.

Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.—1 PET. ii. 17.

BEAR with the faults of those about you, as you expect they should bear with yours; be just to their merits, charitable to their failings, and tender to their misfortunes.—SEED.

With what face can I expect gentleness from my Creator, if every small provocation from my fellow-creatures put me in a passion?—SIR M. HALE.

Learn of me, thus cries the Saviour,
If my kingdom you'd inherit;
Sinner, quit your proud behaviour—
Learn my meek and lowly spirit.
—HANNAH MORE.

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August 31.

Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. —1 PET. iii. 15.

FLEE to the crevices of the Rock of Ages now, if you would nestle for ever in the golden eaves of the eternal temple.—J. R. MACDUFF, D.D.

It is a preposterous thing that men can venture their souls where they will not venture their money, for they will take their religion upon trust, but not trust a synod about the goodness of half-a-crown.—PENN.

Awake, sweet harp of Judah, wake,
Retune thy strings for Jesus' sake;
We sing the Saviour of our race,
The Lamb, our shield and hiding-place.
—HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

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September 1.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—ROM. vi. 11.

THE Christian life has been compared to a beautiful column, whose summit points always to heaven.—SALTER.

As the body is but dead that lacketh a soul; even so is the faith but dead that is but in the mouth, and doth not enter effectually into the heart, and work accordingly.—ARCHBISHOP CRANMER.

Father, in Christ we live, and Christ in Thee,
Eternal Thou, and everlasting we;
The heir of heaven, henceforth I fear not death;
In Christ I live, in Christ I draw the breath
Of the true life.

—S. T. COLERIDGE.

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September 2.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.—1 JOHN iii. 2.

VERILY, "Christ crucified" is the library which triumphant souls will be studying to all eternity. —BISHOP STILLINGFLEET.

Heaven would not be enough for Jesus without His people. It seems as if their presence were essential, not to His duty (that cannot be), but to His individual happiness.—HARRINGTON EVANS.

Raised from the dead, we live anew;
And, justified by grace,
We shall appear in glory too,
And see our Father's face.
—DR WATTS.

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September 3.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.—EPH. v. 1.

WHAT son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Strong in this belief, he [the Christian] sees the bow of love in the cloud of sorrow; kisses the rod, and blesses Him who wields it.—BISHOP JACKSON.

There is scarcely any one who has not some speciality, both as a man and a Christian, which makes him suited for some particular service; and it should be his aim to discover this.—KER.

Our Father—O, how sweet the word,
When life and time their trials bring!
It strikes our spirit's tenderest chord,
And e'en our sorrows bid us sing.
—PAXTON HOOD.

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September 4.

O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.—Ps. lxv. 2.

PRAYER is the first breath of Divine love; it is the pulse of the believing soul; by prayer "we draw water with joy from the wells of salvation."—T. Scott.

There may be many reasons why we do not obtain that which we pray for. Our prayers may obtain for us other blessings than that which we desired, and perhaps greater and better.—Ogden.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.
—Montgomery.

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September 5.

Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee: and let such as love Thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified. —Ps. lxx. 4.

My God, to Thee belong
Incense of praise and hallowed song.
To Thee be all the glory given
Of all my mercies under heaven.
From Thee my daily bread and health,
Each comfort, all my spirit's wealth,
Have been derived; my sins alone,
And errings, I can call my own.
—WALKER.

When religion ceases to be a delight, it becomes a yoke.—MANNING.

Faith is a rod which cleaves Red Seas of difficulty, and God's Word is a pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night, amidst the rocks of a sandy wilderness. . . . Prayer brings down manna every morning, and hope is a spy going aforehand, to bring back the clusters of Eshcol.—J. STOUGHTON.

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September 6.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments. —Ps. cxii. 1.

O THAT the effect of all our troubles and dangers were to drive us more to God, to make us throng more about the throne of grace, to draw forth our King for our help!—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

O Lord, work in me, I beseech Thee, an unfeigned repentance, that I may heartily bewail my former sins, and loathe them, and serve Thee henceforward in newness of life, in godliness and piety towards Thee, and in Christian love and charity towards all my neighbours.—L. BAILY.

Thou, who our faithless hearts canst read,
And know'st each weakness there;
Poor, trembling, faint, with Thee we plead,
Oh, turn not from our prayer!
—J. BALDWIN BROWN.

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September 7.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.—Ps. lv. 22.

HOW calmly may we commit ourselves to the hands of Him who bears up the world.—RICHTER.

No sacrament, ceremony, creed, or Church can save—none but Jesus can.—NEWMAN HALL, LL.B. To overcome the world, to quench the fiery darts of the devil, to purify the heart, and work by love—this is what Christian faith does.—JAMES MILNER.

O Thou, by whom the saints abide,
Whatever fears or foes betide,
Safe in the Bridegroom and the Bride,
God the Spirit, hear us.

—S. J. STONE.

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September 8.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.—ROM. xiv. 19.

A PROUD Christian is a contradiction in terms; humility is the very essence of the Gospel.—BISHOP MANT.

The love to Christ which burns in one Christian's breast does not become enfeebled if other hearts catch the flame from his; but rather, by contact of congenial elements, glows in each separate heart with a fervour all the more intense.—DR CAIRD.

Jesus, lead us with Thy power
Safe into the promised rest;
Hide our souls within Thy bosom;
Let us slumber on Thy breast.
—REV. WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

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September 9.

Being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.—ROM. v. 9.

DO you wish to walk in sunshine of heart? Look unto Jesus. Would you obtain peace and pardon under a wounded spirit? Look unto Jesus, and your burden shall fall off. Would you lift up the hands that hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees? Look unto Jesus.—CECIL.

If any man be in Christ Jesus, he has the spirit and the mind of Christ Jesus; he views things as Christ viewed them; he thinks and feels with Him.—C. BRADLEY.

Mercy that wipes the penitential tear,
And dissipates the horrors of despair,
From righteous Justice steals the vengeful hour,
Softens the dreadful attributes of power,
Disarms the wrath of an offended God,
And seals my pardon in a Saviour's blood.
—CARTER.

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September 10.

Take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life.—DEUT. iv. 9.

WHAT we win by prayer, we must wear with praise.—M. HENRY. Forget not thy sins, that thou mayest sorrow and repent.—PETRARCH.

When you meet with a trial, look not to men but to Jesus; pray for patience to bear it, and look up for a blessing upon it. Then all things shall work together for thy good.—BOGATSKY.

Work is sweet, for God hath blest
Honest work with quiet rest;
Rest below, and rest above
In the mansions of His love.
—THRING.

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September 11.

Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.—MATT. xxiv. 42.

JESUS says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." He knocks by sermons, books, conversations, conscience, solemn warnings. The sound startles you, but if you do not rise and open the door, it will startle you less to-morrow, till at length you may not hear it at all.—NEWMAN HALL.

Watch, therefore, over this unsteady heart of mine, O Thou Keeper of Israel, that as soon as it begins to wander from Thee I may be alarmed, and may flee from sin as from a serpent.—BOGATSKY.

O may we thus ensure
Our lot among the blest,
And watch a moment to secure
An everlasting rest.

—C. WESLEY.

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September 12.

For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. —PROV. iii. 12.

IF we were deeper students of His [Christ's] bitter anguish, we should think less of the rippling of our waves amidst His terrible tempest.—EVANS.

The kingdom of heaven is ever near at hand, but repentance must be our first step towards it. Repentance must prepare the way to faith, and turn our feet into the way of peace. Repentance must precede comfort. "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."—WOGAN.

O may Thy Spirit seal our souls,
And mould them to Thy will,
That our weak hearts no more may stray,
But keep thy precepts still.
—DODDRIDGE.

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September 13.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.—2 TIM. ii. 22.

WITHOUT the lusts and corruptions within, the world and the evil men of the world, and the evil one of the world, could not hurt us.—SIR M. HALE.

It is dangerous to fall into impure conversation; when anything of the kind is said before you, if the place and person admits, reprove him that spoke; if that is not convenient, by your blushes and your silence show at least that you are displeased.—EPICTETUS.

Lord, as to Thy dear cross we flee,
And plead to be forgiven;
So let Thy life our pattern be,
And form our souls for heaven.

—GURNEY.

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September 14.

Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties. —Ps. cxli. 4.

WHOSE fault is it that we are slaves? Not God's fault, but ours; not even the fault of our bodies, but of our corrupted wills.—F. W. FARRAR.

I have a precious soul—shall I lose it for a lust? I have a gracious God—shall I venture Him for a sin? No, Lord; give me grace to resist sin; give me victory over it.—BOGATSKY.

A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offering to bring.
—AUG. MONTAGUE TOPLADY.

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September 15.

The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.—2 CHRON. XV. 2.

GRACE is no scanty thing, doled out in pittances. It is a glorious treasury which the key of prayer can always unlock, but never empty.—DR MACDUFF.

The children of God are to consult with God, to associate all their solemn actions, to preface all great consultations for the common good, with some such religious acts as shall best conduce to the glory of God; making their Creator, who is the Alpha and Omega of all creatures, the beginning and ending of all their actions. —BARGRAVE.

Almighty Power, I love Thee! blissful name,
My healer, God; and may my inmost soul
Love and adore for ever. Oh, 'tis good
To wait submissive at Thy holy throne,
To leave petitions at Thy feet, and bear
Thy frowns and silence with a patient soul.
—WATTS.

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September 16.

One thing is needful.—LUKE x. 42.

MY soul, live upon a *present* Saviour, rejoice in a *present* salvation, and forget not that God in Christ is a very present help in every time of need.—OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, D.D.

Content not thyself with a bare forbearance of sin, so long as thy heart is not changed, nor thy will changed, nor thy affections changed; but strive to become a new man, to be transformed by the renewing of thy mind, to hate sin, to love God, to wrestle against thy secret corruptions, to take delight in holy duties, to subdue thine understanding, and will, and affections to the obedience of faith and godliness.—BISHOP SANDERSON.

Fountain of light and living breath,
Whose mercies never fail or fade,
Fill me with life that hath no death,
Fill me with light that hath no shade;
Appoint the remnant of my days,
To see Thy power and sing Thy praise.
—JOHN QUARLES.

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September 17.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.—Isa. xliii. 2.

RESPOND not by reason of former shortcomings—thy sins are great, but thy Saviour's merits are greater.—Dr Macduff.

Wouldst thou have comfort in thy misery, wouldst thou have joy in all thy sorrows, wouldst thou find rest in the greatest troubles of thy life, wouldst thou entertain death as a messenger of joy, wouldst thou welcome the Lord Jesus at His coming? O labour then to make thy "election sure;" never cease till thou hast gotten the seal and earnest of thy salvation.—J. Mede.

O Thou from whom all goodness flows,
I lift my soul to Thee;
In all my sorrows, conflicts, woes,
Good Lord, remember me.
—Haweis.

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September 18.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.—1 PET. ii. 11.

WHEN thou dost talk with God—by prayer I mean,
Lift up pure hands, lay down all lust's desires;
Fix thoughts on heaven, present a conscience clear;
Such holy blame to mercy's throne aspires;
Confess faults, guilt, crave pardon for thy sin,
Tread holy paths, call grace to guide therein.

—R. SOUTHWELL.

The beauty of vice is but the mask of a siren screening the face of a fury.—F. W. FARRAR.

Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed:
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed:
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

—DR H. BONAR.

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September 19.

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.—ROM. xiv. 7.

EVERY man who is in vital harmony with Jesus Christ rejoices in the consciousness that he is working for posterity.—Dr PARKER.

Let your daily life be an unuttered yet perpetual pleading of man for God; let others feel in contact with you, the grandeur of that religion to whose claims they will not listen, and the glory of that Saviour whose name you may not name.—Dr CAIRD.

Lord, in ceaseless contemplation,
Fix my heart and eyes on Thine,
Till I taste Thy whole salvation,
Where unveiled Thy glories shine!
—ROBINSON.

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September 20.

Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.—JOHN xvi. 23.

WHEN the spirit of prayer is the spirit of your heart, then every good word, whether in a form or out of a form, whether heard or read, will be as suitable to your heart, as gratifying to it, as food is to the hungry, and drink to the thirsty soul.—W. LAW.

Prayer is the very life of the soul. Without it, religion must droop and wither, and at last die. It is in prayer that the healthful spirit of God's grace, and the continual dew of His blessing, is brought down into the soul.—ROBERT EDEN.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice,
And cry, "Behold, he prays."
—J. MONTGOMERY.

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September 21.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.—MATT. vi. 10.

AS the soul lives in the body, but is not of the body, so Christians dwell in the world, but are not of the world.—JUSTIN MARTYR. If you wish for God's kingdom, you must do more than pray for it; you must work for it.—RUSKIN.

The Word of God should be ever connected with prayer. Why is it that many hear and read without being better? They do not pray in faith for a blessing.—BOGATSKY.

May we the precepts, Lord, fulfil,
To do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
To walk in Christ, the living Way,
With all Thy children, and obey
The law of Christian love.
—EDWARD OSLER.

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September 22.

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.—Ps. lxxxvii. 2.

RELIGION is social, and our graces are to be strengthened and invigorated by waiting together on the Lord.—BARNES. In time of service seal up both your eyes, and send them to your heart.—HERBERT.

What a happiness were it, if every time you come to His solemn worship, some of your strongest sins did receive a new wound, and some of your weakest graces a new strength.—LEIGHTON.

Lord, how delightful 'tis to see
A whole assembly worship Thee;
At once they sing, at once they pray,
They hear of heaven, and learn the way.
—WATTS.

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September 23.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. —2 TIM. iii. 16.

IT is worthy of special observation that the Scriptures are distinguished from all other writings pretending to inspiration, by the strong and frequent recommendation of knowledge and a spirit of inquiry. Without reflection it is evident that neither the one can be acquired nor the other exercised.—S. T. COLERIDGE.

The Word is the true manna, it is the bread which came down from heaven, it is the key of the kingdom of heaven, it is the savour of life unto life, it is the power of God unto salvation. In it God showeth unto us His might, His wisdom, and His glory. By it He will be known of us. —BISHOP JEWELL.

Come, holy, holy, holy Lord,
Thou Father, Son, and Spirit, come;
I lean upon Thy changeless Word,
O make the faithful soul Thy home!
—C. WESLEY.

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September 24.

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.—EPH. iv. 26.

CENSURE as well as charity should begin at home.—DR GUTHRIE.

Of all passions, anger endeavours most to make reason useless.—J. TAYLOR.

Moderate anger as soon as it arises, that it may not grow into sin; and at any rate, do not lie down to rest till you have calmed and cleansed your bosom.—BISHOP JACKSON.

"Peace" was the prayer the Saviour breathed
When from our world His steps withdrew;
The gift He to His friends bequeathed,
With Calvary and the cross in view.
And ye, whose souls have felt His love,
Guard day and night this rich bequest;
The watchword of the host above,
The passport to their realms of rest.

—SIGOURNEY.

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September 25.

Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.—2 COR. iv. 17.

THE knowledge which cometh not to err is impressed upon the mind during seasons of affliction; and tears are the softening showers which cause the seed of heaven to spring and take root in the heart.—SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Adversities are the sharp knives with which God does cut from us the deadly ulcers of our sins; these are the two-edged swords with which He slays our enemies and His own which lurk within us.—C. H. SPURGEON.

We speak of the realms of the bless'd,
Of that country so bright and so fair,
And oft are its glories confess'd—
But what must it be to be there?

—MRS WILSON.

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September 26.

Better is little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure, and trouble therewith.—PROV. xv. 16.

IF we had but more faith, we should have less care.—M. HENRY. Happiness consists not in possessing much, but in being content with what we possess.—ZIMMERMAN.

Possess yourselves of those treasures of wisdom that are in Christ Jesus. . . . Be but abundant in the work of the Lord, and let Christ be but found in your souls the hope of glory, and then there are none of the princes, none of the gods in this world, whose happiness you shall envy.—BISHOP PATRICK.

A little that a just man hath
  Is more and better far
Than is the wealth of many such
  As lewd and wicked are.
—*Scottish Psalms.*

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September 27.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.—Ps. xxxvii. 37.

WE shall not die an hour the sooner, but abundantly the better, for our timely setting of our heart and house in order.—M. HENRY.

The peaceful death of the righteous man can only be obtained, or hoped for, by those who have lived the life of the righteous.—BISHOP HEBER.

Show me what I have to do;
Every hour my strength renew;
Let me live a life of faith;
Let me die Thy people's death.
—JOHN NEWTON.

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September 28.

I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.—Ps. xl. 8.

FOREWARN you, that whosoever looks to be made partaker of the joys of heaven must make it the chief, if not the only, business of his life to know the will of God, and to do it. —CHILLINGWORTH.

A man may have his head full of good notions, and his mouth full of good expressions, and yet his heart empty of grace, and perish eternally.—M. HENRY.

Help us to gaze on things unseen
By eyes of mortal sight,
To pierce through earth's dark veil, and glean
Some beams of heaveuly light.
—J. BALDWIN BROWN.

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September 29.

A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.—Ps. xxxvii. 16.

MUNIFICENCE recommends a man more than magnificence.—M. HENRY.

If in a dish of sand I should look with my eyes for the particles of iron, or feel for them with my fingers, I might be unable to detect them. But let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how would it draw to itself the most invisible particles by the mere power of attraction! The unthankful heart, like the fingers in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings; only the iron in God's sand is gold. —O. W. HOLMES.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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September 30.

He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.—JOHN XV. 5.

THER gifts are only as "mites" from the Divine treasury, but redemption opens—I had almost said, exhausts—all the "stores" of indulgence and grace.—HERVEY.

Whoever believeth or thinketh to be saved by his works, denieth that Christ is his Saviour, that Christ died for him, and that all things pertain to Christ. For how is He thy Saviour, if thou mightest save thyself by thy works; or wherefore should He die for thee, if any of thy works might have saved thee?—PATRICK HAMILTON.

See, your Saviour is ascended,
  See, He looks with pity down:
Trust Him, all will soon be mended;
  Bear His cross, you'll share His crown.
—MRS HANNAH MORE.

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October 1.

Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—2 PET. iii. 18.

A MAN does not carry the Gospel in his heart, unless he loves it with all his soul; nobody loves it as he ought, that does not make it the rule of his life.—ERASMUS.

The words of the Lord are pure words, as the silver tried in the furnace; there is no filth nor dross remaining in them; they are the storehouse of wisdom and of the knowledge of God, in respect whereof all the wisdom of this world is but vain and foolish.—BISHOP JEWELL.

Here is the spring where waters flow
To quench our heat of sin;
Here is the tree where truth doth grow,
To lead our lives therein.

—T. JORDAN.

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October 2.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. —COL. iii. 4.

HOW should we welcome the thoughts of that happy hour when we shall make our escape out of these prisons—when we shall pass out of "this howling wilderness" into "the promised land"—when we shall be past all storms, and secure from all further danger of shipwreck, and shall be safely landed in the regions of bliss and immortality!—
—ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

There will be crowns with varying lustre, and harps of varying tone; but like the blending of different colours to the eye, different notes to the ear, all will be pervaded by one beautiful harmony.—J. R. MACDUFF, D.D.

To Jesus, the crown of my hope,
My soul is in haste to be gone;
O bear me, ye cherubim, up,
And waft me away to His throne.
—WILLIAM COWPER.

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October 3.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.—COL. iii. 2.

IF you are not on your guard, the slavery of habit will soon bind you. Do they say, Young men may for a time with impunity sow their wild oats, and then be free to reform? It is falsehood. Every allowed sin is a link in the chain that is forging to bind them. —ARCHBISHOP TAIT.

There is no sin whatever which will not, if persisted in, be a rock of shipwreck to our faith and hopes.—BISHOP BLOMFIELD. As the iron touched by the magnet turns to the pole, so the mind touched by grace turns to Christ.—BISHOP WILSON.

O cast my errors from Thy sight,
And let them pass away,
Unheeded as a watch by night,
Or as a cloud by day.
—JAMES MERRICK.

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October 4.

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. —1 TIM. v. 8.

IF any who profess the Gospel, through sloth, improvidence, selfishness, or other corrupt principles, wilfully neglect or refuse to provide for their near relatives, they, in the apostle's judgment, virtually deny the faith.—THOMAS SCOTT.

Help me against the power of the enemy, help me against my own negligence and cowardice, and defend me from the deceitfulness of my own unfaithful heart. Helpless, let me be borne up by Thy cross, and boldly commit myself to Thy hand.—ST AUGUSTINE.

Lord, be it mine, like Thine elect, to choose
The better part, like them to use
The means Thy love has given;
Be holiness my aim on earth,
That death be welcomed as a birth
To life and bliss in heaven.

—BISHOP MANT.

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October 5.

Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.—ROM. xiii. 14.

THEY whom the Lord Jesus clothes, shall not be found naked.—HAWEIS.

If you will embrace Christ in His robes, you must not think scorn of Him in His rags; if you will sit at His table in His kingdom, you must first abide with Him in His temptations; if you will drink of His cup of glory, forsake not His cup of ignominy.—BRADFORD.

Go forward, Christian soldier,
Beneath His banner true!
The Lord himself, thy Leader,
Shall all thy foes subdue.
—LAURENCE TUTTIETT.

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October 6.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—MATT. v. 3.

THERE is a small chance of truth at the goal, where there is not a childlike humility at the starting-post.—S. T. COLERIDGE.

The high mountains are barren, but the low valleys are covered over with corn; and accordingly, the showers of God's grace fall into lowly hearts and humble souls.—WORTHINGTON.

Thou cam'st not here to stay:
What tak'st thou for thy part, but heavenly pleasure;
Where, then, should be thy heart, but where's thy treasure?
Lord Jesus, take my spirit! I trust Thy love and merit:
Take home this wand'ring sheep, for Thou hast sought it;
This soul in safety keep, for Thou hast bought it!

—BAXTER.

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October 7.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.—PHIL. ii. 5.

GIVE Jesus everything—intellect, heart, life! Go with Him to Jerusalem, and having accompanied Him to the scene of humiliation, He will clothe you with an ephod whiter than snow, and cover you with a diadem above the brightness of the sun.—DR PARKER.

To a sinner's ear there is no music on earth, nor are the golden harps of heaven like the name of Jesus. Music in its sound, there is ointment in its meaning, fragrant as the spikenard of the alabaster box: "His name is as ointment poured forth."—DR GUTHRIE.

Awake, sweet harp of Judah, wake!
Retune thy strings for Jesus' sake;
We sing the Saviour of our race,
The Lamb our shield and hiding-place.
—HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

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October 8.

Prove your own selves.—2 Cor. xiii. 5.

IN vain do we pretend to seek God in our devotions if we do not seek God in our whole conversation.—M. Henry. Sincerity, thou first of virtues!—Home. The affectation of sanctity is a blotch on the face of piety.—Lavater.

A right act strikes a chord that extends through the whole universe, touches all moral intelligence, visits every world, vibrates along its whole extent, and conveys its vibrations to the very bosom of God.—Binney.

Come let us to the Lord our God
With contrite hearts return;
Our God is gracious, nor will leave
The desolate to mourn.
—Dr J. Morrison.

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October 9.

The Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression.—ISA. lix. 20.

O FOLLOWERS of the Lamb, let your garments be always white; yea, let Him be your garment, clothe yourself with Himself; have your robes made of His spotless fleece.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

If we would have any clear view of the love of Christ we must live for Christ. Known, allowed, or indulged sin, even in its lesser accesses, is altogether incompatible with any true enjoyment of this highest knowledge. Habits of impurity . . . banish that Presence which is our life.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Jesus is the name we treasure,
Name beyond what words can tell,
Name of gladness, name of pleasure,
Ear and heart delighting well,
Name of sweetness passing measure,
Saving us from sin and hell.

—DR NEALE.

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October 10.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.—COL. iii. 16.

THY good works will never bring thee to Christ; but if thou layest hold on Christ in sincerity of faith, He will easily and quickly bring thee to good works.—BISHOP COPLESTON.

The face of Jesus is more lovely to God than all the worlds; His eyes are brighter than all the stars; His voice is sweeter than bliss. Therefore doth the Father will to have His Son's beauty reflected in ten thousand mirrors—in saints made like unto Him, and His praises chanted by myriads of voices of those who love Him, because His blood hath saved them.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune mine heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
—ROBERT ROBINSON.

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October 11.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.—JAMES i. 17.

LOVE is the central cause and pervading law of creation. Creation sprang from love. We *are* because God loved us.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

He that feeds the soul with heavenly manna will support the body with daily bread. He that gives to drink out of the wells of salvation will not fail to afford a cup of cold water. He that hath provided a robe of righteousness that the shame of my nakedness do not appear, will also give wool.—MEIKLE.

Friend to help us, cheer us, save us,
In whom power and pity blend,
Praise we must the grace which gave us
Jesus Christ, the sinner's Friend.
—NEWMAN HALL.

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October 12.

Thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. —GAL. iv. 7.

EVERY true Christian is a free-man; and while the rest of the world are very slaves, the saints are kings and priests to God and the Lamb. They are all sons of the Highest. —MEIKLE.

Christianity does not assert to be *a* way, but *the* way of salvation; and presents Jesus to mankind, not as a name, but "the *only* name under heaven whereby a man can be saved."—NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D.

Jesus, how much Thy name unfolds
To every opened ear;
The pardoned sinner's memory holds
None other half so dear.
—MRS MARY PETERS.

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October 13.

The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.—RUTH ii. 12.

NO work done for Christ perishes. No action that helps to mould the deathless mind of a saint of God is ever lost.—DR CAIRD.

In the "fear of the Lord" must be the confidence of our strength, for His name is a "strong tower." The righteous will flee unto it—yea, sinners too may be bold to flee unto it, because of His mercy.—BISHOP LAKE.

How rich is poverty's scant hoard
When God hath blessed its lot;
How poor the heaps that wealth hath stored
If He hath blessed them not!

—BARTON.

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October 14.

Blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it.—LUKE xi. 28.

THE best evidence of our love to the Word of God is never to forget it.—M. HENRY. "Here is wisdom." This is the royal law. These are the lively oracles of God.—BISHOP SUMNER.

Study the Holy Scriptures; therein are contained the words of eternal life. They have God for their Author, salvation for their end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for their matter.—LOCKE.

While now Thine oracles we read
With earnest prayer and strong desire,
O let Thy Spirit from Thee proceed,
Our souls to awaken and inspire;
Our weakness help, our darkness chase,
And guide us by the light of grace.

—C. WESLEY.

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October 15.

Be not weary in well-doing.—2 THESS. iii. 13.

HOUGH men may count thy life for foolishness, and treat thy faithfulness with scorn, fear not, for God is mindful of thee also.—GIRDLESTONE.

The Christian race is not to be run by so many fits, but by a constant course and progress.—HOPKINS. Whenever God gives us the opportunity and the means of doing good, it should be to us an occasion of special thanksgiving.—BARNES.

Come, weary soul, with sin distress'd,
The Saviour offers heavenly rest;
The kind, the gracious call obey,
And cast your gloomy fear away.
—ANNE STEELE.

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October 16.

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?—HEB. ii. 3.

PURSUE science, conquer creation, lay nature at your feet; but remember that to know everything but Jesus Christ is nothing but thinly-disguised and ruinous insanity.—DR J. PARKER.

For here, for one thing, we have set before us, in the person of Christ, infinite purity taking the very nature of the guilty into most intimate union with itself; and surely this, to the troubled conscience, is no slight indication of Divine forgiveness. —DR CAIRD.

Jesus, my Lord, my life, my all,
Prostrate before Thy throne I fall;
Fain would my soul look up and see,
My hope, my heaven, my all in Thee.
—SAMUEL MEDLEY.

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October 17.

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.—ROM. x. 9.

IN the Gospel the flag of invitation waves in the sight of the whole species. . . . It is on the stepping-stone of a universal offer that each man reaches his own particular salvation. —DR CHALMERS.

Christ would have us to believe on Him who justifies the ungodly, and therefore He doth not require us to be godly before we believe; He came as a Physician for the sick, and doth not expect they should recover their health in the least degree before they come to Him.—BOGATSKY.

Dear name, the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace.
—NEWTON.

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October 18.

I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy name, O Thou Most High. —Ps. ix. 2.

PRINCIPLE elevates whatever it touches. . . . And religious principle is the noblest of all. Bring it to bear on common actions and coarse cares, and infinitely nobler even than the philosophic and scientific, becomes the Christian's life.—DR CAIRD.

The man who consecrates his house
By vig'rous effort and an honest aim,
At once he draws the sting of life and death;
He walks with Nature, and her paths are peace.

—YOUNG.

Our hearts and voices let us raise
In songs of thankfulness and praise,
Our heavenly Father's love to bless,
Which crowns the year with fruitfulness.

—BISHOP WORDSWORTH.

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October 19.

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. —JAMES v. 13.

"IT is in the closet," says Payson, "the battle is lost or won."—DR MACDUFF.

When Job prayed, God turned his captivity; when Jacob wrestled in prayer, he obtained the blessing; when Elijah and Solomon prayed, the fire fell and consumed the sacrifice; when Paul and Barnabas prayed and sung praises, the prison was shaken, the doors opened, and every man's bands were loosed; and while the Church prayed for Peter, an angel set him at liberty.—MEIKLE.

O Thou by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod—
Lord, teach us how to pray.
—MONTGOMERY.

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October 20.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.—EPHES. iv. 3.

IKE the *smooth* stones with which David smote Goliath, *gentle* rebukes are generally the most powerful.—DR MACDUFF.

Faith cometh of the Word of God; hope cometh of faith; and charity springeth of them both. Faith believes the Word; hope trusteth in that which is promised by the Word; charity doth good unto her neighbour through the love that she hath to God and the gladness that is within herself.—PATRICK HAMILTON.

O dew of heaven, O light of earth!
Fain would our hearts be filled with thee,
Because nor darkness comes, nor death,
About the home of charity.
—RUSKIN.

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October 21.

Blessed are they . . . that seek Him with the whole heart.—Ps. cxix. 2.

BLESSED are they that seek God; because they find in Him an unerring Counsellor, an infallible Guide, an unchanging Friend, a Shepherd who maketh His sheep to lie down in green pastures, and leadeth them beside the still waters.—W. L. ALEXANDER, D.D.

In communion with God, the soul shares of His fulness, communicates of His glory, drinks at His pleasures, satiates herself with His love, participates of His communicable perfections, enters into His joy, and partakes of the Divine nature.—MEIKLE.

We need not bid for cloistered cell
Our neighbour and our work farewell,
Nor strive to wind ourselves too high
For sinful man beneath the sky;
The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

—JOHN KEBLE.

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October 22.

God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.—1 COR. x. 13.

GOD afflicts with the mind of a father, and kills for no other purpose but that He may raise again.—SOUTH. Trust as simply and entirely to God during the famine of the soul, as your blessed Redeemer did in the famine of the body [Matt. iv.].—H. BLUNT.

The strength which the hour of trial brings often makes the Christian a wonder to himself.—DR MACDUFF.

God of all grace, we bring to Thee
A broken, contrite heart;
Give what Thine eye delights to see,
Truth in the inward part.

—JAMES MONTGOMERY.

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October 23.

I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. —PHIL. iii. 8.

IF the universe could not content thee without Christ, why should not Christ content thee without the least dust of the universe?—MEIKLE.

Life comes before growth. The soldier must enlist before he can serve. . . . No religion can be genuine, no goodness can be constant or lasting, that springs not, as its primary source, from faith in Jesus Christ.—JOHN CAIRD, D.D.

Lord, be mine this prize to win,
Guide me through a world of sin,
Keep me by Thy saving grace,
Give me at Thy side a place;
Sun and shield alike Thou art,
Guide and guard my erring heart;
Grace and glory flow from Thee,
Shower, oh shower them, Lord, on me.
—H. F. LYTE.

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October 24.

He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. —2 COR. x. 17, 18.

A CHRIST-LIKE spirit will Christianise everything it touches. A meek heart in which the altar-fire of love to God is burning, will lay hold of the commonest, rudest things of life, and transmute them, like coarse fuel at the touch of fire, into a pure and holy flame.—DR CAIRD.

There is no one who diligently searches into his own works, his own thoughts and inmost sentiments, who will not feel himself not only inclined but compelled to smite his breast and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner."—BISHOP HEBER.

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
Which before the cross I spend;
Life and health and peace possessing
From the sinner's dying Friend.

—WALTER SHIRLEY

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October 25.

The Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts. —1 CHRON. xxviii. 9.

THE Holy Ghost convinceth us of sin, then of righteousness. Our disease must be felt before our remedy can be sought.—HAWEIS.

Nothing so debases human nature, so eats out of the heart all that is good and noble in it, and so effectually separates it from the Source of its being, who is holiness and purity, as deliberate sin.—ARCHBISHOP TAIT.

O Thou to whose all-searching sight
The darkness shineth as the light,
Search, prove my heart, it pants for Thee,
Oh burst these bonds and set it free.

—JOHN WESLEY.

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October 26.

If a man love me, he will keep my words. —JOHN xiv. 23.

FAITH supplies the food with which love lives. Repentance clears the way for it and makes it possible, cleanses the altar where the fire is to burn.—BISHOP JACKSON.

When the soul is smitten, it clamours for love to soothe it, for love vast and more abiding than man's, the love of the Smiter; it reaches out of its adversity feeling fingers after Him if haply it may touch and grasp in Him the true comfort, and having found Him, it reposes.—DR J. OSWALD DYKES.

From the cross uplifted high,
Where the Saviour deigns to die,
What melodious sounds I hear
Bursting on my ravished ear—
"Love's redeeming work is done;
Come and welcome, sinner, come."
—HAWEIS.

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October 27.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.—Ps. i. 1.

NOTHING but truth can keep a man upright, and straight, can keep a man where God has put him, and where he ought to be.—CHARLES KINGSLEY.

Everything within us is from our infirmity liable to ceaseless changes and decline; our spirits flag, our resolutions fail, our affections grow cold, old temptations revive, new difficulties affect us. . . . One thing only can hold us up, revive us, quicken us again and again. It is the light of Christ's love to us.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

There is a path that leads to God,
All others go astray;
Narrow, but pleasant, is the road,
And Christians love the way.
—JANE TAYLOR.

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October 28.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.—Ps. cxix. 105.

HE Bible is always a new book. If you want a novel, read your Bible; it is always new; there is not a stale page in the Word of God; it is just as fresh as though the ink were not yet dry, but had flowed to-day from the pen of inspiration.—C. H. SPURGEON.

The Bible does not depend for its authority upon any church or all churches; it stands upon its own peculiar evidences. . . . It is a common light, a common blessing.—REDFORD. There is no book upon which we can rest in a dying moment but the Bible.—SELDEN.

Holy Bible, Book Divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine,
Mine to tell me whence I came,
Mine to teach me what I am.

—JOHN BURTON.

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October 29.

Ye shall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary.—LEV. xix. 30.

GOD in all ages has honoured the Sabbath. On this day the Church militant approaches near to the Church triumphant.—MEIKLE.

The Sabbath is the day of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit; that is, it is the very same in essence with the heavenly Sabbath, has the same objects, the same praises, the same gratitude, the same sources of happiness.—BISHOP D. WILSON.

O day most calm, most bright,
The fruit of this, the next world's bud;
The endorsement of supreme delight,
Writ by a Friend and with His blood;
The couch of time, care's balm and bay.
The week were dark but for Thy light;
Thy torch doth show the way.
—G. HERBERT.

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October 30.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.—MATT. v. 9.

MAKE yourselves strong, patiently to suffer all things; revenge not yourselves, but leave all punishment to God, and He will revenge your quarrels.—CRANMER.

Our Great Peacemaker pronounced the peacemakers happy. . . . They bear the image of God and copy His example; He owns them as His children.—THOMAS SCOTT. Peace is the proper result of the Christian temper.—PATRICK.

How sweet, how heavenly is the sight
When those that love the Lord
In one another's peace delight,
And so fulfil His Word!
—JOSEPH SWAIN.

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October 31.

If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.—MARK ix. 23.

FAITH is just trusting to what Jesus says. Faith is simply coming to Jesus.—NEWMAN HALL, LL.B.

Faith is the condition of salvation, but is not the arbitrary condition. It saves not as a charm but by the power of the truth believed over our moral and spiritual nature, and that power truth cannot have in any other way than by our knowing it to be true.—DR CAIRD.

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary;
Saviour Divine,
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
Oh let me from this day
Be wholly Thine.
—RAY PALMER, D.D.

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November 1.

My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.—2 Cor. xii. 9.

HEAVENLY grace implanted in the soul is the divine philosopher's stone, that turns everything in our possession into a more excellent nature and greater value.—Meikle.

The geologist tells you that the brightest diamond is only crystallised carbon—or, as I might call it, charcoal glorified; and so it is with souls that were coal black in the defilement of sin—by the power of God's grace, they are made God's jewels for ever. —Dr Talmage.

Yet, Holy Father, wild despair
Chase from my labouring breast;
Thy grace it is which prompts the prayer,
That grace can do the rest.
My life's brief remnant all be Thine;
And when Thy sure decree
Bids me this fleeting breath resign,
O speed my soul to Thee.
—Bishop T. F. Middleton.

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November 2.

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.—ECCLES. xii. 1.

IT is said that the young must be allowed to sow their "wild oats." I have noticed that those who sow their wild oats seldom try to raise any other crop.—DR TALMAGE.

What is free-will? who enjoy it? Not those certainly who are the slaves of passion. When is the soul freed? Not then certainly when it is in bondage to the flesh.—ARCHBISHOP TAIT.

Deep on thy soul, before its powers
Are yet by vice enslaved,
Be thy Creator's glorious name
And character engraved.
For soon the shades of grief shall cloud
The sunshine of thy days;
And cares and toils, in endless round,
Encompass all thy ways.

—*Scottish Paraphrase.*

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November 3.

Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.—2 COR. viii. 9.

HEN you contemplate the Saviour, you find all the virtues enshrined in Him; other men are stars, but He is a constellation, nay, He is the whole universe of stars gathered into one galaxy of splendour.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Jesus was pleased to be born of a poor mother, in a poor place, in a cold winter's night, far from home, among strangers, with all the circumstances of humility and poverty; and no man will have cause to complain of his coarse robe, if he remembers the swaddling clothes of this holy Child, nor to be disquieted at his hard bed, when he considers Jesus laid in a manger.—BISHOP J. TAYLOR.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
—ISAAC WATTS, D.D.

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November 4.

Ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.—HEB. x. 34.

SOME drops from the celestial cup are sufficient for a time to make us forget our sorrows, even while we are in the midst of them. What then may we not expect from full draughts of those pleasures which are at God's right hand?—BISHOP HORNE.

The heaven of the Bible is the heaven of a rational, thinking, emotional, active and holy creature. It is the region of pure intelligence, holy love, sublime enjoyment, and noble occupation. . . . It is the one spot where man, being what he is, can obtain all that he needs or craves; where alone the complement of his being can be attained; and where alone there is nothing to mar his enjoyment or disturb his repose. —W. L. ALEXANDER, D.D.

We have no home but heaven; a pilgrim's garb we wear;
Our path is marked by changes, and strewed with many a care;
Surrounded with temptation, by varied ills oppressed,
Each day's experience warns us that this is not our rest.

—MISS MENNEL.

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November 5.

So run, that ye may obtain.—1 Cor. ix. 24.

GOD will have a whole heart, and a whole soul, or none.—J. Mede. It is not enough to serve Christ by starts; it must be our ordinary employ. —D. Williams.

When we consider what labour, self-denial, self-abasement, and perseverance, men submit to for the fading honours and distinctions, and corruptible interests of this world, of which contested elections in this land give us a striking illustration, it should make us ashamed of shrinking from any hardship, abstinence, self-abasement, or suffering, which may be needful in securing the incorruptible crown and most blessed inheritance for which we are called on to contend.—Thomas Scott.

He liveth long who liveth well;
All other life is short and vain;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of living most for heavenly gain.
—Dr H. Bonar.

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November 6.

Know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.—EPH. iii. 19.

LOVE brought the Saviour down. Love opened the gate. Love led to the sacrifice. Love sheltered the grave. Love lifted Him up in resurrection. Sovereign love. Omnipotent love. Infinite love. Blending love. Everlasting love.—DR TALMAGE.

The voice of Christ is distinctly audible to the soul. . . . And there be those who have learned to lean on Christ's bosom, till they have looked for all the world as though they were a shell that lay in the ocean of Christ's love, listening for ever to the sonorous cadence of that deep, unfathomed, all-mysterious main. The billows of His love never cease to swell.—C. H. SPURGEON.

With joy we meditate the grace
Of our High Priest above;
His heart is made of tenderness,
His bowels melt with love.

—DR WATTS.

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November 7.

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord.—JER. xvii. 7.

OU may have trouble with your children, difficulty in managing your servants, be envied and persecuted by your neighbours, personally afflicted with palsy or blindness for years and years; but hold fast through all to God's faithfulness, claim Him as the God of your fathers, learn by experience, and pray without ceasing, and your tent thus pitched towards the skies will prove but a useful preparation for your eternal residence with God above.—J. R. KERR.

Spend no time so as you cannot beg the blessing of God upon what you do. Spend no time without respect to God's glory, or your own or others' good. Spend and improve your time so that your great work may be done before your life's end.—FLEMING.

Spirit of purity and grace,
Our weakness, pitying, see;
Oh, make our hearts Thy dwelling-place
And meet for Thee.

—HARRIET AUBER.

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November 8.

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.—Ps. lxxxix. 15.

LET your actions shine out your religion.—C. H. SPURGEON. The perfecter a man is, the clearer is his sight.—TINDAL. There is no joy but in God.—TAYLOR.

Every beautiful grace, every noble virtue, that has ever adorned the saintliest of mankind may be yours. Why should any man be satisfied with small and scanty spiritual gains? In Divine things there can be no avarice; to the most insatiable desire of wealth you may innocently give scope. You are not straitened in God—be not straitened in yourselves.—DR CAIRD.

Arm of the Lord, awake! awake!
Put on Thy strength, the nations shake;
And let the world, adoring, see
Triumphs of mercy wrought by Thee.
—WILLIAM SHRUBSOLE, SEN.

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November 9.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.—Ps. xlii. 1.

LIGHT and superficial knowledge of natural things may indeed consist with atheism; but a deep and profound search into them brings men back again to God, and necessarily binds them over to religion.—BISHOP JOS. BUTLER.

There is no time lost while we are waiting God's time.—M. HENRY. As you pass through the wilderness of the world, His influence will be your never-failing manna. —DALE.

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gold would His favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
—HEBER.

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November 10.

Building up yourselves on your most holy faith. . . . Keep yourselves in the love of God.—JUDE 20, 21.

IF faith wavers, temptation will surely prevail; unbelief is at the bottom of all our sins.—HAWEIS.

Faith is not only a means of obeying, but a principal act of obedience. It is not only a needful foundation, it is not only as an altar on which to sacrifice, but it is a sacrifice itself, it is a submission of our understanding, an oblation of our idolised reason to God.—E. YOUNG.

Jesus, how glorious is Thy grace!
When in Thy name we trust,
Our faith receives a righteousness
That makes the sinner just.
—ISAAC WATTS, D.D.

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November 11.

We shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.—1 JOHN iii. 2. 3.

WHAT must that glory be that supplies the absence of the sun? What must that beatific vision be which changes the soul at its first entrance into it?—MEIKLE.

Nothing, nothing, can be a substitute for purity and virtue. Man will always try to find substitutes for it. . . . But let no man lay that flattering unction to his soul. The first and last business of every human being—whatever his station, party, creed, capacities, tastes, duties—is morality.—CANON KINGSLEY.

Hope through the watches of the night;
Hope till the morrow brings the light;
Hope till thy faith be lost in sight;
Abound in hope.

—DR B. H. KENNEDY.

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November 12.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying.—EPH. iv. 29.

IF I wished to destroy an idol temple, I would not begin by stripping off some of its gewgaw ornaments, but strike at once at the foundation. It is alike useless to endeavour to detach worldly men from the pleasures and vain amusements with which they glorify their idol, the world. We must overcome the stony foundation of nature's corruptions.—SALTER.

A Christian is not made in a fit, neither is the work of grace wrought in a passion; but it is a settled, solemn, and constant frame of heart that brings a man to Christ and salvation.—HOPKINS.

Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
Shall know Him and rejoice;
His coming like the morn shall be,
Like morning songs His voice.
—DR J. MORRISON.

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November 13.

My heart rejoiceth in the Lord; mine horn is exalted in the Lord; my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in Thy salvation.—1 SAM. ii. 1.

HOLY love is fed by divine contemplation.—DR W. L. ALEXANDER. If it be really in sitting under the shadow of Christ, let there be no bounds to our joy.—M'CHEYNE.

A heart which is sanctified, is better than a tongue that is silvered. . . . It is not the bare touching of the strings that makes an harmonious tune. . . . . If God's mercies do not eat out the heart of our sins, our sins will soon eat out the heart of our duties. A work that is heartless is a work that is fruitless.—DR GUTHRIE.

Awake, all-conquering arm, awake!
And lift the Saviour's standard high!
Oh, cause Thy cheering face to shine,
And call Thy chosen people nigh.
—AARON C. H. SEYMOUR.

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November 14.

The wise shall inherit glory.—PROV. iii. 35.

THE prosperity of fools destroys them, and the prosperity of those who have not much wisdom injures them.—W. JAY.

There are always feelings of grandeur and sublimity associated with high and lofty positions. . . . And so it is with the Christian when he ascends into the loftier regions of more intimate communion with God. He feels himself to be raised above this world, and he breathes, as it were, the very atmosphere of heaven.—DEAN BAGOT.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more lustre to the day.
—SIR JOHN BOWRING.

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November 15.

Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.—1 COR. xiv. 20.

SHOW me a will made pliable to the heavenly Father, under the experience of grace and forgiven sin, and I will show you equanimity above the philosopher's—the equanimity of the Christian child.—DR J. O. DYKES.

Religion is indeed a thing for the gentlest and lowliest, in which the simplest and sweetest natures find all that is congenial to them; but it is not the less that which may claim kindred with the loftiest culture, to which the richest treasures of thought and learning may well be offered up.—DR CAIRD.

O my soul! thy lost condition
Brought the gentle Saviour low!
Hast thou felt one hour's contrition
For those sins that pierced Him so?
Dost thou bear the love thou owest
For such proof of grace divine?
Canst thou answer, "Lord, Thou knowest
That this heart is wholly Thine?"
—C. BOWLES.

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November 16.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.—GAL. vi. 10.

NEVER prospered more in my small estate than when I gave most and needed least. . . . When I took the present opportunity [of laying out now], and trusted in God for the time to come, I wanted nothing and lost nothing.—R. BAXTER.

"The opportunity to do good," says Cotton Mather, "imposes the obligation to do it."—BARNES. A good deed is never lost: he who sows courtesy reaps friendship; and he who plants kindness gathers love.—BASIL.

Courage, brother, do not stumble,
Though thy path is dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble—
"Trust in God, and do the right."
—DR N. MACLEOD.

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November 17.

The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.—PROV. iv. 18.

PHILOSOPHY describes created light, but religion leads us to the Father of more excellent lights and super-eminent glories. The one leads us to see the palace—the other to behold Him who dwells in the heaven of heavens, in the eternity unknown.—MEIKLE.

We may agree with Augustine, who says, "There is but one object greater than the soul, and that one its Creator;" and we may reason fitly, that if it was worthy of God to create such a being at first, it is worthy of Him to care for it afterwards, and to seek its progress and happiness with all the means at His disposal—that is, with a power, and wisdom, and goodness which are unlimited.—KER.

O for the pearly gates of heaven!
O for the golden floor!
O for the Sun of Righteousness
That setteth never more!
—MRS C. F. ALEXANDER.

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November 18.

Let no man deceive himself.—1 COR. iii. 18.

AS in nature all bodies gravitate towards a common centre, and cannot receive a contrary inclination unless by an intervention of the physical omnipotence of God, so is it with man. The natural tendency, in consequence of the fall, is downward to destruction, and this moral gravitation cannot be changed unless by an exercise of the power of the Spirit.—DEAN BAGOT.

That goodness is better than religion, I will believe when any man has convinced me that the rind of an orange is better than the whole orange.—A. W. HARE.

Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings,
Thy better portion trace;
Rise from transitory things
Toward heaven, thy native place.
—R. SEAGRAVE.

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November 19.

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.—HEB. xiii. 9.

STEADFAST faith in God will produce a steadfast faithfulness to God.—M. HENRY. If the world be in the heart, it will be often shaken, . . . but God in it keeps it stable. —LEIGHTON.

Modern science has discovered that the sunshine is the most accurate and most rapid painter. And so it is; the light of the Spirit flashes down upon the soul in the very humblest of earth's humble dwellings, and there is painted on it in a moment the image and likeness of God.—DR PUNSHON.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
There's mine heart, oh take and seal it!
Seal it from Thy courts above.
—ROBERT ROBINSON.

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November 20.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.—1 TIM. i. 15.

FAITH is that poor trembling woman, who came behind Jesus in the press and touched the hem of His garment. Faith is the penitent thief crying, "Lord, remember me." Faith is Peter's drowning cry, "Lord, save me."—J. C. RYLE.

Let us, instead of puzzling ourselves as to how the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world, believe that He knows and that He lives; and cry to Him, as to the living God, "Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, and take our sins away."—CANON KINGSLEY.

In busy mart and crowded street,
No less than in the still retreat,
Thou, Lord, art near, our souls to bless,
With all a parent's tenderness.

—B. W. NOEL.

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November 21.

Approve things that are excellent.—PHIL. i. 10.

WE should be thankful for a day of small things, but we should seek after a day of great ones. We should add to the essentials of religion its excellences too. We should not only have life, but have it more abundantly.—W. JAY.

A small measure of love, knowledge, judgment, spirituality, and fruitfulness, should not satisfy us; but we ought to long and pray without ceasing, and use every appointed means with diligence and earnestness.—THOMAS SCOTT.

I want a godly fear,
A quick discerning eye,
That looks to Thee when sin is near,
And sees the tempter fly;
A spirit still prepared,
And arm'd with jealous care,
For ever standing on its guard
And watching unto prayer.

—*Anon.*

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November 22.

Be not conformed to this world.—ROM. xii. 2.

THE devil tempts us by suggestion of fancies; the world tempts us by allurement of objects; the flesh tempts us by inclination of will.—SIR R. BAKER.

Dare not venture one step out of the road to heaven for fear of being laughed at. . . . It is a poor religion that cannot stand against a jest.—WATTS. In your last hours there will be no work that will yield you such high satisfaction as that which you do for God.—DR TALMAGE.

Fight the fight, Christian,
Jesus is o'er thee;
Run the race, Christian,
Heaven is before thee.
He who hath promised
Faltereth never;
The love of eternity
Flows on for ever.

—J. STAMMERS.

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November 23.

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed, and in truth. —1 JOHN iii. 18.

LOVE is the quintessence of bliss, the heart of heaven, the joy of angels, the song of the redeemed, and the character of God.—MEIKLE.

When God shines on the soul of the Christian, beams of celestial loveliness are reflected by him on the world. The Christian character should savour of holiness. The true believer must flourish under the soft distilment of the droppings of heaven upon the heart.—ROWLAND HILL.

Source of wisdom, past and present,
Fount of love which ne'er shall cease;
Thou, whose ways are always pleasant,
Thou, whose paths are perfect peace.
—JOHN MOULTRIE.

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December 24.

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. —Col. iii. 15.

PEACE with God is the life of the soul, and joy in God is its health. —James Hamilton, D.D. The peace of God calms down every agitated element of the soul, and subdues the tumult of passion.—Barnes.

The meek man forgives injuries when real—for God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven him; and he thinks his own debt to God to be far greater than any that a fellow-creature can owe him.—Dean Alford.

Oh, fear not in a world like this,
And thou shalt know ere long,
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong.
—Longfellow.

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November 25.

What think ye of Christ?—MATT. xxii. 42.

HE has faith who prays Christ to save him. . . . God does not ask what he is, but what Christ is.—C. J. VAUGHAN, D.D.

As the result of his faith, the believer will be possessed by Christ, created anew in Christ Jesus. There will be a Christ-power resting upon him, and operative in him, an immediate knowledge of Christ as a being revealed in the consciousness.—HORACE BUSHNELL, D.D.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name all victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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November 26.

Seek the Lord, and ye shall live.—AMOS v. 6.

GOD, God, God alone, is the true food. Ask it then of God to give you the food that is convenient for you, and He gives you Himself. And that is bread, bread of life, bread of eternity.—HORACE BUSHNELL, D.D.

By prayer alone can our faith be strengthened and exercised, or our hope enlivened; or that taste for and relish of Divine things begotten and kept up, by which our thoughts are purified and our lives sanctified.—DEAN ALFORD.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer.
—J. MONTGOMERY.

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November 27.

If any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.—HEB. x. 38.

NO backslider is in a fair way of recovery until he is humbled. He must "remember whence he has fallen, and repent and do the first works," or he can never have restored to him the joys of Christ's salvation. To die in a state of backsliding may involve the loss of heaven!—DR CUYLER.

Sanctification is no less than for a man to be brought to an entire resignation of his will to the will of God, and to live in the offering up of his soul continually in the flames of love, as a whole burnt-offering to Christ.—JUSTIN MARTYR.

Saints by the power of God are kept
Till the salvation come;
We walk by faith as strangers here
Till Christ shall call us home.

—DR WATTS.

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November 28.

Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.—JAMES iv. 8.

TRAVELLERS tell us that they who are on the top of the Alps can see great showers of rain fall under them, but not one drop of it falls on them. They who have God for their portion are in a high tower, and thereby safe from all troubles and showers.—SWINNOCK.

God's altar stands from Sunday to Sunday, and the seventh day is no more for religion than any other. It is for rest. The whole seven are for religion, and one of them for rest.—BEECHER.

O Lamb of God, my Sacrifice! I must
remember Thee;
Remember Thee and all Thy pains, and
all Thy love to me—
Yes, while a breath or pulse remains, will
I remember Thee.
And when these failing lips grow dumb,
and mind and memory flee,
When Thou shalt in Thy kingdom come,
Jesus, remember me.

—MONTGOMERY.

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November 29.

Thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.—Ps. xxxvi. 8.

TRUE pleasure consists in clear thoughts, sedate affections, sweet reflections, a mind even and staid, true to its God, and true to itself. —HOPKINS.

The difference between the two distinct susceptibilites of pleasure in men—the sensitive and the spiritual—is full of meaning. The former deadens with exercise, the latter quickens. The former must die at death, and frequently becomes extinct even before that period; the latter is renewed day by day as the outward man decayeth.—DR THOMAS.

Holy Spirit, gently come,
  Raise us from our fallen state;
Fix Thy everlasting home
  In the hearts Thou didst create.
Gift of God most high,
  Visit every troubled breast;
Life and light and love supply,
  Give our spirits perfect rest.
—HAMMOND.

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November 30.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven.—MATT. v. 12.

WHAT need for faith, when all is certainty? What possibility of hope, when all is fruition? But charity is the very robe of the glorified soul, the bond of men and angels, the pervading atmosphere of heaven.—BISHOP JACKSON.

Conceive a state of being wherein the love of God shall be a possession, not a hope, and when the ecstatic sense of immortality shall never be clouded by the shadow of death, but when, in delightful consciousness of immortal life, every noble faculty shall be continually strengthening, and every good affection constantly expanding,—and you have done nearly all that man can do to catch the image, or rather the outline, of that form of heavenly glory which brightens the end of his pilgrimage to the Christian.—DR J. PARK.

Trust to that which aye remains, the bliss
of heaven above,
Which time, nor fate, nor wind, nor storm
are able to remove.
Trust to that sure celestial Rock that rests
on glorious throne,
That hath been, is, and must be still our
anchor-hold alone.

—KINWELMERSHE.

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December 1.

Be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.—PHIL. i. 10.

THE heart must be made a temple to God, wherein sacrifices ascend.—LEIGHTON. The loyalty of the heart to God consists in a universal purpose of obedience and resolution against all sin, without reservation.—J. MEDE.

The whole trust must be in Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; without Him, prayers, praises, rites, and ordinances are carcases without a soul.—BOGATSKY.

My spirit on Thy care,
Blest Saviour, I recline;
Thou wilt not leave me to despair,
For Thou art love divine.
In Thee I place my trust,
On Thee I calmly rest;
I know Thee good, I know Thee just,
And count Thy joy the best.

—LYTE.

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December 2.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest.—HEB. iv. 11.

TRY what you can make of the broken fragments of time. Glean up its golden dust.—DR JAMES HAMILTON.

It is a settled, solemn, and constant frame of heart that brings a man to Christ and salvation.—HOPKINS.

Go, labour on! thy hands are weak,
Thy knees are faint, thy soul cast down,
Yet falter not—the prize is near,
The throne, the kingdom, and the crown.
—DR BONAR.

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December 3.

Happy is the man whom God correcteth. —Job v. 17.

THE physician attacks the disease, and not the patient; he seeks to cure him whom he causes to suffer. It is that God, whose mercy is infinite, chastises us only to bring us into the way of salvation, or to confirm our walk in it.—Basil.

Tears are the softening showers which cause the seed of heaven to spring and take root in the human heart.—Sir Walter Scott.

Well pleased, the Father sees and hears
The conscious sinner weep;
Jesus receives him in His arms,
And owns him for His sheep.
—John Needham.

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December 4.

He maketh the storm a calm.—Ps. cvii. 29.

LET us, with the wisdom of Christian sailors on the sea of life, be regardless of the storm, while all our attention is riveted on the Pilot.—GIRDLESTONE.

Patience brooding over its own quiet spirit, which yet it feels is not its own, has the presentiment and augury of an end beyond itself. In the deep well of a tranquil heart the star of hope is lying—ever clearer as the calm is deepening—reflected down into it from God's own heaven.—KER.

Rejoice, though storms assail thee;
Rejoice, when skies are bright;
Rejoice, though round thy pathway
Is spread the gloom of night.

—*Anon.*

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December 5.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts.—Ps. cxxxix. 23.

THE sincerity of a true religious principle cannot be better known than by the readiness with which the thoughts advert to God, and the pleasure with which they are employed in devout exercises.—J. MASON.

If you really are in earnest about your soul, if your religion is something more than a mere fashionable cloak, . . . you must carry a cross, you must endure hard things, you must suffer because of your soul, as Moses did, or you cannot be saved.—J. C. RYLE.

I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend His cause;
Maintain the honour of His Word,
The glory of His cross.

—DR WATTS.

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December 6.

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.—JOHN xiv. 23.

LOVE to Jesus is the best incentive to action, the best antidote to idolatry. It adorns the labours which it animates, and hallows the friendships which it overshadows.—DR JAMES HAMILTON.

What touches you, touches Christ. What annoys us, annoys Christ. What robs us, robs Christ. He is the great nerve-centre to which thrill all sensations which touch us who are His members.—DR TALMAGE.

For all who come to God by Him,
Salvation He demands;
Points to their names upon His breast,
And spreads His wounded hands.
—TOPLADY.

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December 7.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life.—JAMES i. 12.

NO cross, no crown; let us not then be afraid of the cross, for when we bear it, it bears us; and when we refuse to take it up, we refuse the staff of every Christian pilgrim, and the weapon of every Christian soldier.—BOGATSKY.

Temptation, unless we listen to it, can no more wound the soul than a bullet, unless it hits a man, can wound the body.—ARCHDEACON HARE.

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me.
—ROBERT HERRICK.

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December 8.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, . . . humbleness of mind.—COL. iii. 12.

THE true secret of living at peace with all the world is to have a humble opinion of ourselves.—CHRYSOSTOM.

The more we have been in the depth of humility, the lower shall we be able to descend with Christ in meditating on His humiliation for our sakes; the better shall we be able to understand the nature of His sufferings, and to appreciate and follow the example of His most holy life.—DEAN ALFORD.

Humble we must be, if to heaven we go,
High is the roof there, but the gate is low;
Whene'er thou speak'st, look with a lowly eye,
Grace is increased by humility.

—HERRICK.

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December 9.

Hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you.—EZEK. XX. 20.

TO spend a Sabbath well is of necessity to make it a peaceable habitation, a sun dwelling, a quiet resting-place. . . . We have high business on hand to-day. . . . Come, let us read again these blessed letters sent to us from that far country.—DR A. RALEIGH.

Did you ever call to mind that a seventh part of your whole lives is made up of Sundays? One week in every seven is a week of Sundays. . . . One year in every seven is a year of Sundays.—ARCHDEACON HARE.

On each return of holy rest,
The day my heavenly Father blest,
O let my happy portion be
To find supreme delight in Thee,
In Thee, my God, in Thee.
—JAMES HOLME.

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December 10.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.—Ps. xxiii. 6.

RELIGION distinguishes and elevates. The possessors of it begin to rise on earth, but their dignity is perfected and displayed in heaven.—WILLIAM JAY.

The world in which we live is a beautiful world, and the Spirit of Omnipotence has given us many pleasures and blessings; shall we not enjoy them? Let us refresh ourselves with them thankfully, whilst we go forth in our search after truth.—EDWARD FORBES.

There are in this loud stunning tide
Of human care and crime,
With whom the melodies abide,
Of th' everlasting chime.

—KEBLE.

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December 11.

Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel. —PHIL. i. 27.

NO man can put Jesus Christ to greater shame than by professing the Gospel, without showing the power of it.—BOGATSKY.

There is no depth mercy cannot fathom; there is no height it cannot scale; there is no infinity it cannot compass.—T. D. TALMAGE, D.D. He that takes away reason to make way for revelation puts out the light of both, and does much the same as if he would persuade a man to put out his eyes, the better to receive the remote light of an invisible star by a telescope.—LOCKE.

When our heads are bowed with woe,
When our bitter tears o'erflow,
When we mourn the lost, the dear,
Gracious Son of Mary, hear!
—HENRY HART MILMAN, D.D.

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December 12.

Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?—JOHN xi. 26.

THE deepest affection in a believing soul is the love of its Saviour. . . . There is a love to Jesus which nothing can destroy.—DR JAMES HAMILTON.

Christian faith is the faith of a transaction. It is not the committing of one's thought in assent to any proposition, but the trusting of one's being to a Being, there to be rested, kept, guided, moulded, governed, and possessed for ever.—DR HORACE BUSHNELL.

One there is above all others
Well deserves the name of friend;
His is love beyond a brother's,
Costly, free, and knows no end.
They who once His kindness prove
Find it everlasting love.

—NEWTON.

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December 13.

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing.—PROV. xiii. 4.

WORK, hard work, is a blessing to the soul, and the character of the man who works.—CANON KINGSLEY. The idle man is the devil's cushion, on which he taketh his free ease. . . . The standing water soon stinketh, whereas the current ever keeps clear and cleanly.—BISHOP HALL.

God made nothing idle. It was not the fall which brought in business. Paradise itself was a garden, and there was toil, though sweet and productive, in the dressing and the keeping of it.—C. J. VAUGHAN, D.D.

The God of glory walks around
From day to day, from year to year,
And warns us each with awful sound,
No longer stand you idle here.
—BISHOP HEBER.

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December 14.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.—Col. iii. 1.

THE blood of the paschal lamb did not save the Israelites by being shed, but by being sprinkled. In the same manner, it is not the blood of Christ as shed on Calvary, but as sprinkled on the soul, that saves us from the wrath to come.—Dr Kitto.

Open your whole heart to Jesus, tell Him all your case, confess at His feet every hidden grief, every secret sorrow, every untold guilty fear. He is ready to hear and to help; He is infinitely able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto Him.—Dr Caird.

Raised from the dead, we live anew,
And justified by grace,
We shall appear in glory too,
And see our Father's face.
—Dr Watts.

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December 15.

Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.—ROM. xiii. 11.

IF you at any time feel a contented coldness creep over your souls, beware of it, as of a drowsiness which may end in death.—ARCHDEACON HARE.

The time which some men waste in superfluous slumber, and idle visits, and desultory application, were it all redeemed, would give them wealth of leisure.—DR J. HAMILTON.

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is nigh.
—CHARLES WESLEY.

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December 16.

Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. . . . Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.—MATT. iii. 2, 8.

LET no man say that, because repentance, and faith, and remission of sins are the free gifts of God through Jesus Christ our Saviour, he need not seek for them. As well might the husbandman say that, because the fruit of the ground is the gift of God, he need not labour, nor plough the soil, nor sow the seed.—DEAN BAGOT.

Christian repentance is not legal, but evangelical. It is not slavish, but filial. It is not degrading, but connected with the noblest feelings of the heart.—JAY.

Come, give me rest, and take
The only rest on earth Thou lov'st, within
A heart that for Thy sake
Lies bleeding, broken, penitent for sin.
—JOHN S. B. MONSELL, LL.D.

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December 17.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.—Ps. xxiii. 4.

THERE never was a traveller to the throne of God but pursued his way through the thorny path of affliction.—MEIKLE.

Who can tell what it is to pass at once from the dimness of earth to the lustre of heaven; from pain, and sickness, and sorrow, to measureless joy; from groans, and sighs, and tears, to songs of triumph and the congratulations of the blessed; . . . from faint and far-off views of God and Christ to the very blaze of the beatific vision?—DR W. L. ALEXANDER.

"Soon and for ever,"
Our union shall be
Made perfect, our glorious
Redeemer, in Thee.
—JOHN S. B. MONSELL, LL.D.

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December 18.

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.
—LUKE xviii. 1.

THE love of Christ is an abiding motive, and can only lose its power when reason has lost its place.—DR J. HAMILTON.

There is a virtuous fear which is the effect of faith, and there is a vicious fear which is the product of doubt. The former leads to hope as relying on God; . . . the latter inclines to despair.—PASCAL. Lay aside your doubts. . . . Begin with implicit trusting. . . . Come and roll yourself, your soul, and your sins upon your gracious Saviour. Begin with simple believing, and all other things shall soon be added to you.—RYLE.

Oh, help us when our faint hearts bleed,
When sin's wounds make them sore;
And when our hearts are cold and dead,
Oh, help us, Lord, the more.
—DEAN MILMAN.

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December 19.

Have peace one with another.—MARK ix. 50.

THE merciful man is merciful in his thoughts of others.—DEAN ALFORD. It is a noble and great thing to cover the blemishes and to excuse the failings of a friend; to draw a curtain before his stains, and to display his perfections; to bury his weaknesses in silence, but to proclaim his virtues upon the house-top.—SOUTH.

Never hurt any one's self-respect. Never trample on any soul, though it may be lying in the veriest mire, for that last spark of self-respect was its only hope, its only chance.—CANON KINGSLEY.

Teach us each other, Lord, to love,
And in our inward parts,
Let kindness sweetly write her law,
Let love command our hearts.
—BASIL WOODD.

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December 20.

Whoso readeth, let him understand.—MATT. xxiv. 15.

THE Scriptures are the sea of God: let us take heed we be not drowned in them. They are the fires of God: let us take comfort by their heat, and warily take heed they burn us not.—BISHOP JEWELL.

Do not think it enough to learn to spell, and to read and say the words of Scripture; but seek to learn the truths of Scripture. . . . You should do as the bees do; you should settle your thoughts on what you read, and try to suck the honey out of it.—A. W. HARE.

Amidst these gloomy wilds below,
When dark and sad we stray,
Here beams of heaven relieve our woe,
And guide to endless day.

—ANN STEELE.

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December 21.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. —JAMES i. 4.

WHY should I dread to descend the shaft of affliction, if it leads me to the gold mine of spiritual experience?—C. H. SPURGEON.

If here oppressed with "the bondage of corruption," you sigh with the indignant impatience of the captive for the emancipation of the world from evil, conceive the rapture of that hour which the rapid years are hastening on, when the captivity of sin shall cease for ever, and you shall leap forth to liberty.—DR CAIRD.

When musing sorrow weeps the past,
And mourns the present pain,
How sweet to think of peace at last,
And feel that death is gain.

—G. T. NOEL.

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December 22.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, . . . and not after Christ.—COL. ii. 8.

IT is the work of a philosopher to be every day subduing his passions, and laying aside his prejudices.—ADDISON.

In the present day, when religion and philosophy are assuming such novel aspects; when the mysterious in revelation is subjected to the scrutiny of philosophy, and philosophy herself straying into the labyrinths of mysticism, and claiming kindred with the supernatural; when the apostolic simplicity of Christian worship is marred by the glitter and mummery of exploded superstitions, it is necessary to warn you against speculations morally and intellectually degrading.—SIR DAVID BREWSTER.

Spirit of light, do Thou impart
Majestic truths, and teach my heart;
Teach me to know how weak I am,
How vain my powers, how poor my frame;
Teach me celestial paths untrod,
The ways of glory and of God.

—CRABBE.

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December 23.

Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end.—JOHN xiii. 1.

THE love of Christ is personal and particular, and He watches for His flock with a directly personal care.—DR BUSHNELL. Come, then, ye who have wandered like bleating sheep, distressed and famished, without a shepherd, come to Jesus Christ, to the Shepherd of your souls.—V. KNOX.

Get love to the Lord Jesus, and you have everything. Union to Jesus is salvation. Love to Jesus is religion. Love to the Lord Jesus is spiritual and vital Christianity.—DR J. HAMILTON.

Not the labour of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow—
All for sin would not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
—TOPLADY.

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December 24.

Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—2 PET. iii. 18.

CONVERTING grace, like thaw, softens the heart that was hard, moistens and melts it into tears of repentance, and makes good affections to flow which were before stopped up.—SALTER. There is no true life but the life of faith.—BISHOP HALL.

Work is not only a duty, but a blessing. Every right deed is a step in the upward scale of being by which we are raised to that rich reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—KER.

When heart and flesh are failing,
O Lord, I look to Thee;
Let Thy grace, all-prevailing,
Revive and comfort me.
—THOMAS DUNLOP.

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December 25.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.—LUKE ii. 10.

HE who made the world came into the world to save it, and bore for it the burden of shame and guilt.—KER. As a needle in the compass trembles till it settles in the north point, so the heart of a sinner can have no rest but in Christ.—DINGLEY.

Sing, sing, O universe! till thou hast exhausted thyself; thou canst not afford a song so sweet as the song of incarnation. . . . There is more in that than in creation, more melody in Jesus in the manger than there is in worlds rolling in grandeur round the throne of the Most High.—C. H. SPURGEON.

Christians, awake! salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love,
Which hosts of angels chanted from above.
—JOHN BYROM.

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December 26.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor.—LUKE iv. 18.

JUST as being outwardly poor is to be deprived of the means of subsistence, and its extreme state is to be obliged to ask of another the necessaries of life, so being inwardly and spiritually poor is to feel ourselves void of all means of sustaining spiritual life, and its extreme state—a state which every Christian has gone through—is to throw ourselves at the feet of Jesus, acknowledge ourselves utterly destitute, and beg of Him in a spiritual sense to give us day by day our daily bread.—DEAN ALFORD.

Divine grace is . . . an invincible thing. Drown it in the waters of adversity, it rises more beautiful as not being drowned indeed but only washed; throw it into the furnace of fiery trials, it comes out purer and loses nothing but the dross which our corrupt nature mixes into it.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal;
"Dust thou art, to dust returnest,"
Was not spoken of the soul.
—H. W. LONGFELLOW.

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December 27.

God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. —1 THESS. v. 9.

"TO love Christ" is to have the heart go forth to Him when in His wonderful life, and still more wonderful death, He has become the object of faith to the soul.—KER. He that gathereth not with Christ scattereth abroad. —BRADFORD.

The Saviour's love, not deterred by our own unworthiness, not offended by our slights, comes down to teach and bless the meanest and the lowliest life in the new creation. He restores the bruised reed: the weakest natures share His visits, and revive beneath His smile.—C. STANFORD.

Faith is the only sacrifice
That can for sin atone,
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes,
On Christ, on Christ alone.
—MONTGOMERY.

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December 28.

Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.—2 TIM. ii. 1.

THOUGH Satan be endeavouring to bind his chains fast about thee, though thy heart quake and be ready to fail for the many sins that encompass it, though destruction and death be in thy way, yet fear not; "behold thy King cometh," trust Him; He will restrain, He will defend.—BOGATSKY.

You take trouble because you cannot see how you are to get out of trouble in the future; but God, to whom there is no future, to whom all things are ever present, now says to you, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."—BEECHER.

Yes! He knows the way is dreary,
  Knows "the weakness of our frame,"
Knows the hand and heart are weary—
  He "in all points" felt the same.
He is near to help and bless:
Be not weary, onward press.
—FRANCES R. HAVERGAL.

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December 29.

Thou comfortedst me.—Isa. xii. 1.

THE comfort of a Christian in his saddest condition is, that God is his portion. . . . As the sap in winter retreateth to the root, and there is preserved, so the saint in crosses, in death, retireth to God, the fountain of his life, and so is comforted.—Swinnock.

Give me the comforts of God, and I can well bear the taunts of men. Let me lay my head on the bosom of Jesus, and I fear not the distraction of care and trouble. If my God will give me ever the light of His smile, and glance His benediction, it is enough.—C. H. Spurgeon. I know not any joy . . . that so enlivens, refines, and elevates my whole nature, as that which I derive from religion.—Lavater.

Light of the loved pilgrim's heart,
Star of the coming day,
Arise, and with Thy morning beam
Chase all our griefs away.
—Sir Edward Denny, Bart.

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December 30.

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.—LUKE xvii. 10.

DUTIES are ours, events are God's. This removes an infinite burden from the shoulders of a miserable, tempted, dying creature; on this consideration only, can he securely lay down his head and close his eyes.—CECIL.

He who is false to present duty breaks a thread in the loom, and will find the flaw when he may have forgotten the cause.—H. W. BEECHER. No man's spirits were ever hurt by doing his duty.—PALEY.

Come, ye servants, see your station
Freed from all reproach and shame;
He who purchased your salvation
Bore a servant's humble name.
—HANNAH MORE.

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December 31.

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.—1 PET. iii. 8.

S he is the best Christian that is most humble, so is he the truest gentleman that is the most courteous. — TRAPP. As the sword of the best-tempered metal is most flexible, so the truly generous are most pliant and courteous.—FULLER.

Perhaps, O my soul, this may be the last year of the Lord's patience and thy pilgrimage. Is thy state safe? Art thou a real believer in Jesus? Is the oil of grace in thy vessel? If so, thou art prepared for every emergency.—BOGATSKY.

Great God, we sing that mighty hand
By which supported still we stand;
The opening year Thy mercy shows,
That mercy crowns it to its close.
—DODDRIDGE.

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